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Near East & South Asia

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Daily Report
Near East & South Asia

FBIS-NES-94-184 *22 September 1994*

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NOTICE TO READERS: Effective 1 October, the processing indicators appearing in brackets at the start of each item in this publication will be changed. All new indicators will begin with "FBIS" to make the material more easily identifiable. Some will also indicate whether the item has been translated from the vernacular or transcribed from English.

An * indicates material not disseminated in electronic form.

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Palestinian Affairs

'Arafat Meets With U.S. Envoy Dennis Ross

JN2209084994 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 0730 GMT 22 Sep 94

[Text] His Excellency President Yasir 'Arafat met with Dennis Ross, U.S. coordinator for the Middle East peace process, yesterday evening. During the two-hour meeting, discussions dealt with how to expedite the donor countries assistance to the Palestinian National Authority and Israel's procrastination in implementing what was agreed upon concerning the arrangements for the Palestinian elections throughout the Palestinian territories, as well as the transfer of power.

In a statement to the press following the meeting, President 'Arafat said that Ross briefed him on the contents of the 11 Gaza development projects U.S. Vice President Al Gore had recently announced.

'Arafat, Islamic Resistance Movement Members Meet

JN2209103294 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 0730 GMT 22 Sep 94

[Text] His Excellency President Yasir 'Arafat met with several Islamic Resistance Movement [Hamas] members last night, including the movement's official spokesman Dr. Mahmud al-Zahhar and Isma'il Haniyah. The discussion dealt with ways to enhance national unity, and means to safeguard the security of the homeland and the citizens.

'Abd-Rabbuh Criticizes U.S. Peace Stand

JN2109211194 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1558 GMT 21 Sep 94

[Interview with Yasir 'Abd-Rabbuh, PNA "minister of culture and information," by Ahmad Rafiq 'Awad in Jericho; date not given—recorded]

[Text] ['Awad] With us in the studio, we have Minister of Culture and Information Yasir 'Abd-Rabbuh,. You are most welcome. Our first question to you concerns the U.S. position on the peace process, particularly since Dennis Ross, special U.S. Middle East coordinator, is currently touring the region, not to mention the fact that the Palestinian-Israeli track is experiencing a stalemate. There is also a stalemate on the Syrian-Israeli track.

['Abd-Rabbuh] Let us speak in all frankness. The U.S. position is not encouraging. I would like to give some tangible examples to substantiate my argument. The United States intervened strongly at the Paris meeting when a crisis evolved over the Jerusalem institutions and the support that needs to be extended to them. It demonstrated a bias in favor of the Israeli position. Indeed, the Americans showed stronger zeal than the Israelis when they demanded the revocation of any support for the Jerusalem institutions. They demanded that such support not be discussed. Additionally, whenever Israel violates the Washington agreement--signed by the United States—in contravention of the pledges reported to have been made by Israel to the United States with regard to the issue of settlements, we do not see any U.S. intervention, nor do we see any U.S. pressure whatsoever.

['Awad] This acquires an added significance due to the absence of the Russian role.

['Abd-Rabbuh] With regard to the Russians, they are making an effort in this regard. They are doing their best. Their political position is balanced. Nonetheless, what I would like to say is that the U.S. position is flagrantly biased. If we are to evaluate our experience since the signing of the Washington agreement, we will find that the United States has failed to pursue a balanced policy, and that it has turned a blind eye to many Israeli violations and encroachments with regard to the issue of settlements, the Jerusalem issue, settlement activities in Jerusalem, and several other issues enshrined in the Washington agreement, not to mention Israel's disregard for the timetables spelled out in the Washington agreement regarding the transfer of powers to the Palestinian Authority and preparations for elections. The United States has always said that it upholds democracy. At present, the Americans have carried out military intervention in Haiti on the pretext of upholding democracy and reestablishing legitimate institutions there. They seek to use an international umbrella to achieve this purpose. That is fine. But, we have not heard any U.S. official making a single utterance regarding the need for Israel to comply with the agreements concluded, including the provisions pertaining to making preparations for elections. Hence, I would like to say frankly that the U.S. role is not supportive in terms of aiding the peace process. We have continued to hear promises. In the meetings with U.S. envoys, including the meeting with Dennis Ross, there are good promises and words. But in return, the Americans submit to us concrete demands aimed only at promoting Israeli interests.

['Awad] Mr. Minister: You have noted the issue of elections. You have said that the United States is not pressing this issue. Recently, some Israeli officials have said that they are not interested in setting a date for holding discussions on the issue of elections. In the meantime, the Palestinians have announced that the Israelis are willing to discuss the issue of elections on 28 September to identify the mechanisms, measures, and dates concerning elections. What do you have to say about this issue?

['Abd-Rabbuh] Israel has violated the agreement. With regard to the issue of holding elections and transferring powers, it should have been addressed three months ago. Nonetheless, we have not thus far started negotiations on completing the implementation of the interim period agreement. The Palestinian-Israeli agreement does not only concern Gaza and Jericho. The withdrawal from

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Gaza and Jericho was merely a single item, a single move in the context of the agreement. The agreement is a full-blown deal, which should be viewed as an indivisible whole.

Therefore, when the Israeli side talks about postponing the elections—as if the elections issue can be unilaterally decided by Israel—this constitutes a violation of the agreement and renders ineffective some of its most crucial points, such as the withdrawal of the Israeli Army from populated areas in the West Bank and the entry of the Palestinian police forces, and preparations for the general legislative elections—I insist on calling them legislative because this is what the agreement between us and Israel calls them. This also includes the release of prisoners and other required measures. This is the core of the agreement. The agreement is not just Gaza and Jericho. If the Israelis do not abide by the stipulations of the agreement, then the agreement as a whole becomes ineffective.

['Awad] Mr. Minister: According to Israeli news media, Israeli officials say that it is not possible to discuss the elections issue in case the Palestinians insist on raising the Jerusalem and settlements issues. In other words, they want to discuss elections without talking about the settlements and Jerusalem?

['Abd-Rabbuh] Those are worthless pretexts. The agreement is clear. Its articles are clear. We should work quickly to complete the implementation of the agreement on the transitional period and make sure that Palestinian jurisdiction covers the West Bank and Gaza, excluding the exceptions that have been left for the final status negotiations. Some Israeli circles are effectively trying to tailor and implement a new agreement. So far, they have been completely obstructing what has been agreed upon regarding the crossings and the Palestinian responsibility at the crossings. They are also obstructing some articles concerning movement between the West Bank and Gaza and between Jericho and Gaza. Even regarding the Palestinian media, the agreement to set up a Palestinian television station covering the entire Palestinian territory is subject to procrastination. There are many issues that we have agreed upon. For example, according to the agreement which was signed in the presence of Christopher and President Mubarak, they must leave the Gaza coast. So far, we have not heard the Americans say anything in this regard. They come to us to discuss some problems that occur, and which we had anticipated, such as minor security problems or some violations here and there, despite the Palestinian authority's efforts to overcome them. On the other hand, the Americans say nothing about the blatant violation of the essence and bases of the Oslo and Washington agreements. What is the positive role they are talking about? This provides our people and the Palestinian authority with serious indications about the next phase and the U.S. and Israeli intentions. It also provides our Arab brothers who are now engaged in negotiations to arrive at peace agreements with indications about the reality of the U.S. role and casts doubts about the seriousness and equilibrium of this role with regard to the implementation of and respect for agreements.

['Awad] Mr. Minister: About the Israeli violations and procrastination, there is an important issue which constantly and daily defies the Palestinian sentiments. It is the issue of detainees. Israel promised to release all prisoners and detainees. So far, we do not see the agreement being implemented?

['Abd-Rabbuh] Exactly. This is one of the points whose implementation is being obstructed by Israel. In fact, I want to explicitly say that there is an Israeli attempt to make the implementation of the agreement a unilateral Israeli decision rather than a matter subject to negotiations and agreement between two sides.

For example, we have formed a committee to discuss the detainees issue. It is an Israeli- Palestinian joint committee. This committee has held one meeting. It has not met again due to the Israeli side's attempts to obstruct its meetings. We cannot accept this. As I said, this is another violation of the agreement. I would like to repeat that without arrangements for the elections and for completing the implementation of the major clauses of the transitional phase agreement, it will be as if the agreement between us and the Israelis does not exist.

['Awad] With your permission, Mr. Minister, in a statement two days ago, Salim al-Za'nun, deputy speaker of the Palestine National Council [PNC], said that the Israeli authorities seek to embarrass the Palestinian National Authority [PNA] by this procrastination. They seek to obstruct its work and tasks. What is your comment?

['Abd-Rabbuh] I believe that there are some circles in the Israeli authorities and the Israeli Army command which do not want to see a strong Palestinian authority. They want to deal with a weak Palestinian authority. This means that when we have an elected legitimate authority which derives its powers from the people, and based on a Palestinian legislative council, this authority will have strong pillars. They want a weak authority in terms of its legitimacy. Consequently, they seek to impose a new formula in accordance with their interpretation of the Palestinian-Israeli agreement.

['Awad] Do you believe that the United States supports this approach?

['Abd-Rabbuh] The United States uses double standards, particularly in the Middle East. As I said, the strange thing is that the United States, which is mobilizing armies for the sake of democracy in Haiti, does not say a single world about democracy in Palestine despite the fact that this is included in the agreement. Without elections, there will not be a Palestinian-Israeli agreement. Without the expansion of authority, there will not be a Palestinian-Israeli agreement. This issue must be clear. This is because the essence of the agreement is to

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begin the implementation of Resolution 242. The essence of the agreement is the establishment of a Palestinian authority represented by an elected Palestinian council in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip, and the assumption of powers by the Palestinian security within the framework of a democratic system and legitimate institutions which derive their powers from the people. This is the essence of the agreement. This also means the beginning of the end of the Israeli occupation. It paves the way for the full implementation of Resolution 242 as stipulated in the Oslo and Washington agreements. This is the agreement. So, what has happened to the clear interpretation of the agreement? We will not accept any procrastination. Any attempt to show that the situation hinges on the will of one party is also considered a serious violation of the bases of this agreement. Israel does not have the right to obstruct or determine when or how the elections should take place. It has no right, based on the advice of some generals or circles, to postpone the elections. This is the Palestinian people's decision. We will discuss with them what we call the modalities [preceding word in English] which mean the procedural administrative arrangements in accordance with the bases which were included in the agreement; namely, the right to elect a Palestinian council which has legitimate powers and which enjoys full representational powers which include the West Bank, Gaza, and East Jerusalem.

['Awad] With your permission, Mr. Minister, let us move to another subject. The UN General Assembly session began yesterday. There is Palestinian and Arab participation in the meetings. What do you think will be the Arab political approach there, especially after the Oslo and Cairo agreements?

['Abd-Rabbuh] Clearly nothing has changed. The United Nations has a duty and responsibility with regard to a solution to the Palestinian problem. Naturally we emphasize the continuation of this duty and responsibility. The issue of occupation of most of the Palestinian territories is still there. The Jerusalem issue is there, the issue of the refugees continues. These are the basic elements of the Palestinian problem. Therefore, the United Nations is asked not only to reiterate its previous resolutions on the Palestinian problem but to exert efforts concerning the issue of Jerusalem and stopping current measures to change the landmarks and features of Jerusalem. The United Nations has a duty and responsibility concerning the refugee issue; namely to emphasize that it constitutes the crux of the Palestinian issue. Without a solution of this problem a genuine Palestinian-Israeli peace cannot be realized. There must also be an end of occupation in accordance with resolution 242, which emphasizes this fact with regard to all the Palestinian territories occupied since 1967.

['Awad] News agencies say that the United States advised some of the Arab states not to present draft resolutions on Israel as they did in the past.

['Abd-Rabbuh] That is why I say that sometimes the United States demands things that transcend and violate the Washington agreement. In the Washington agreement, we emphasized that the discussion of the Jerusalem and refugee issues must begin by the end of the transitional phase of two years. The United States now wants to make a decision on a stand on Jerusalem, on the refugees, and the Palestinian problem—a stand that is negative and in the interest of the Israeli and U.S. position—even before we and the Israelis begin discussing this issue.

In fact U.S. pressure is again aimed at creating new realities both on the international level and on the UN level. Extreme care must be taken in our policy and in the Arab policy vis-a-vis this U.S. role and stand. I repeat that we believe that this role is not encouraging and will not serve the realization of genuine peace in the region. This role only serves the immediate Israeli and U.S. interests. It does not serve the basic, long-term interests of the region's people, including the People of Israel itself.

['Awad] What about our experiment and its success in the various Palestinian areas? How do you evaluate the relationship with the Palestinian opposition forces—Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] and other forces?

['Abd-Rabbuh] I believe that the call for opening a dialogue by the Palestinian authority is a serious one. We hope that the various Palestinian sides will respond to this call. I do not think that there is a problem concerning finding forms of cooperation and joint work among us. We have differences and this is natural. However, building the government, protecting it, and strengthening democracy in it is a comprehensive national responsibility. We hope that the real dialogue will begin. This dialogue has perhaps started in various forms in the recent past. We hope that a real dialogue will soon start among the various Palestinian sides taking part in the authority and those that are outside the authority.

['Awad] Minister Yasir 'Abd-Rabbuh, thank you for this frank discussion.

U.S. Demands to Arabs at UN Termed 'Premature'

TA2109194394 Jerusalem AL-QUDS in Arabic 20 Sep 94 p 13

[Editorial: "Premature Demands"]

[Text] The U.S. demands said to have been relayed to the Arab states on the eve of the inauguration of the 49th session of the UN General Assembly call on them to stop presenting draft resolutions described as traditional. The least that can be said is that those demands are premature because the Palestinian problem, although it has entered the first stages of a settlement, has still not

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reached the final settlement stage and a just and comprehensive peace has not yet been achieved.

True, some Arab brothers still deal with the Palestinian problem in the same way as before the peace process and others almost agree with the U.S. tendency which considers the problem as having been entirely resolved, however, there is room for adopting a pragmatic approach in dealing with recent developments in the Palestinian problem. This approach should take into account the results of the implementation of the interim agreement and the strategy of achieving the Palestinian people's inalienable national aspirations through the mechanism of the Oslo accord and on the basis of the resolutions of international legitimacy, which have called for exchanging land for peace and granting the Palestinian people their legitimate rights.

Undoubtedly, when the United States presents such demands to the Arabs, it is doing a great service to the Israelis because it encourages them to insist on the same intransigent positions epitomized by dragging its feet in implementing the interim agreement, failing to provide a suitable climate for the establishment of a Palestinian transitional council through elections, procrastinating in the release of thousands of Palestinian prisoners, and so forth. These positions keep casting their shadows on the credibility of the Israeli tendency toward a just peace that respects the rights of the Palestinians and meets their political and human aspirations.

It is certain that any comprehensive peace agreement on the Arab negotiating tracks will not succeed and endure unless it relies on the firm basis of meeting legitimate Arab demands and rights, foremost of all the Palestinian people's rights. The Israeli approach toward the Palestinian problem will remain the pattern before the eyes of those Arabs interested in a peaceful settlement. The more this approach is positive the more will it absorb further Arab peace moves, and the contrary is true. Therefore, the United States should also get closer to Palestinian and Arab positions and aspirations if it actually wants the Arabs to turn over a page from the past and devote their attention only to economic development in this or that Arab state.

PLO's 'Urayqat on Elections, Israel's 'Excuses'

TA2209065994 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0505 GMT 22 Sep 94

[Text] The Palestinian Authority [PA] has assessed that holding general elections in the beginning of November is no longer practical. Dr. Sa'ib 'Urayqat, the head of the Palestinian elections committee, says that Israel is sabotaging the peace process. Our correspondent Yoni Ben-Menahem adds details.

[Begin recording] [Ben-Menahem] The results of the meeting on the elections issue held yesterday with Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin gave rise to a great deal of pessimism among the PA members. Israel is procrastinating again, Dr. Sa'ib 'Urayqat said, estimating that the date the PA set for the elections, namely, the first week of November, is not practical. 'Urayqat rejects the claims that the documents he handed Israel on the elections issue run counter to the Declaration of Principles [DOP].

['Urayqat, in English] It's very, very, very obvious in the DOP; it's stated that the council will have legislative and executive nature, and secondly, to see that one of their military commanders is recommending not to have redeployment outside the towns in the West Bank. So, it's very, very obvious that the Israeli Government is trying to find excuses in order not to implement what they have committed themselves to in Washington, the Oslo agreement.

[Ben-Menahem, translates and continues] The PA has so far received about 2,000 appeals to man the 27 positions slated to serve the regional offices which will register the voters, offices which the PA intends to unilaterally open in the territories and in East Jerusalem. At the first stage, the offices will open in the autonomy areas of Gaza and Jericho, due to the Civil Administration's announcement that it will not allow their opening in the West Bank areas. The Palestinians expected that the problems concerning the opening of offices in the West Bank areas will be resolved by 28 September, the date scheduled for the resumption of the talks on the elections issue. Today, after yesterday's meeting at Rabin's, the Palestinians say the Israelis are again trying to dictate conditions rather than to conduct negotiations. If the problem is not solved, 'Urayqat reemphasized, the peace process will fail since the elections issue is the heart of the Oslo agreement. [end recording]

'Arafat Approves Licensing of Pro-Islamist Daily

JN2109120194 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 0730 GMT 21 Sep 94

[Text] His Excellency President Yasir 'Arafat has approved the licensing of a daily newspaper called AL-ISTIQLAL [independence]. Journalists 'Ala' al-Saftawi and 'Adnan Abu-Hasnah, who are close to the Islamic stream, asked for this license during their meeting with the president yesterday. Following the meeting, al-Saftawi said President Yasir 'Arafat has expressed interest in supporting the Palestinian press and political pluralism in the Palestinian society.

Islamic Unification Movement Established in Gaza

TA2109163794 Jerusalem AL-MANAR in Arabic 19 Sep 94 p 16

[Report by Samih al-Wadiyah]

[Text] Gaza—The Islamic Unification Movement [Harakat al-Tawhid al-Islami] issued a statement in Gaza in which it announced its establishment. The movement

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considered its establishment to be a result of the intifadah's experience, both positive and negative, and a response to the state of fragmentation, collapse, discord, and disorder which the Arab nation is experiencing and the partisan reality which the Palestinian people are experiencing.

The Islamic Unification Movement noted that it does not oppose any Islamic or national faction and that it advocates unity and coordination. The movement also said that it is not against the Palestinian National Authority [PNA] and considers its members as brothers who had a role in the struggle and revolution. The movement stressed that it will seek to promote Islam in Palestine, support Islamic thought, and focus on illuminating the civilized image of Islam. The movement called on the PNA to endeavor to preserve the unity of the people, in all their tendencies and factions, and to renounce cronyism and all uncivilized and illegal methods.

'Large-Scale' Campaign To Fight Illegal Weapons

JN2209100494 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1515 GMT 21 Sep 94

[Text] Husayn al-Shaykh, a preventive security official and member of Fatah's Higher Committee in the West Bank, has said that the [Palestinian] National Authority [PNA] has formed a security department in charge of licensing arms for civilians in the PNA area in Gaza and Jericho. Al-Shaykh condemned the increasing use of arms in the West Bank. He said that Fatah, in coordination with all other national forces, has drawn up a comprehensive national plan to combat the suspicious elements responsible for promoting arms in the occupied lands. For more details about this issue, colleague Wafa' al-Bahr conducted the following interview with Husayn al-Shaykh.

[Begin recording] [al-Bahr] Brother Husayn al-Shaykh, one of the preventive security officials in the West Bank and member of Fatah's Higher Committee: You have called for curbing the spread of arms in more than one statement issued by Fatah. Would you please tell us about the size of this phenomenon?

[Al-Shaykh] It is truly regrettable that recently, particularly in the last few months, we have received confirmed reports that weapons are flowing into the West Bank through suspicious parties. There has been an increase in the use of arms both on public occasions and in daily disputes among people. This has prompted us to shoulder our national responsibility and protect the people and safeguard their social and political stability by combating this dangerous phenomenon, which is undoubtedly manipulated by suspicious parties. We have collected all the evidence and information regarding this issue, and we will take some practical steps to implement the decision banning the use of arms. We will pursue all arms dealers in the West Bank in order to put an end to this phenomenon regardless of the price.

[Al-Bahr] Brother Husayn al-Shaykh, is there a specific plan to collect these arms?

[Al-Shaykh] We, as the Fatah leadership in the West Bank, and in coordination with the PNA's organs, are preparing for a large-scale campaign to combat this phenomenon and confiscate illegal arms in the West Bank.

[Al-Bahr] In the event of expanding the PNA's authority to all West Bank areas, are you going to establish a department for licensing arms?

[Al-Shaykh] Undoubtedly. This is the case now in the self-rule area in the Gaza Strip and Jericho. Palestinian police and security authorities are authorized by the PNA to license any arms in the hands of civilians in the self-rule area.

[Al-Bahr] Are there going to be legal measures against those who refuse to respond to the PNA's policy in this regard?

[Al-Shaykh] We can say that in the Jericho and Gaza self-rule area, anyone who carries unlicensed arms will be liable for legal action.

[Al-Bahr] Brother Husayn al-Shaykh, what would you like to say to citizens in this respect?

[Al-Shaykh] I appeal to our people in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip to cooperate with the official bodies and with PNA to fight this phenomenon, which has become very detrimental to the security and stability of our people, who are looking forward to the security and stability that they were deprived of for many years under occupation. Through your [television] screen and radio, which I hope is being heard in all the West Bank and the Gaza Strip, I would like to call on all the brothers who carry arms to completely refrain from brandishing or using them, either on social occasions or in settling social disputes. Using them poses dangers to the public security of the Palestinian masses. We hope that they will cooperate with the official bodies and with the PNA's organs in order to curb this phenomenon and put an end to it. We have confirmed information that hostile and suspicious parties stand behind this phenomenon. We hope that our people will not serve as a tool for these parties. They will thus be acting in the higher national interest of our Palestinian people.

[Al-Bahr] Brother Husayn al-Shaykh, official in charge of preventive security and member of Fatah's Higher Committee in the West Bank, thank you. [end recording]

PNA Bans Weapons From Public Areas, Gatherings

JN2209102794 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 0730 GMT 22 Sep 94

[Text] Social Affairs Minister Intisar al-Wazir, Umm-Jihad, has stated that the [Palestinian] National

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Authority [PNA] yesterday decided to ban weapons from streets, public squares, and weddings.

Umm-Jihad told our correspondent Sa'id 'Ayyad that the PNA is determined to implement this and will not allow any violations in order to safeguard the citizens' security.

On the other hand, Umm-Jihad said the PNA decided to compensate the owners of houses which the Israeli occupation demolished by giving them an apartment in the housing projects the PNA will build.

Gaza Strip Airport To Begin Operations Soon

TA2109184294 Jerusalem AL-QUDS in Arabic 20 Sep 94 p 5

[Report by 'Ala' al-Mashahrawi]

[Excerpt] Gaza—The Palestinian National Authority's Civil Aviation Department announced that the location for a Palestinian airport in the Gaza Strip has been chosen and that President Yasir 'Arafat ratified the decision after having been briefed by the head of the Civil Aviation Department Colonel Fayiz Zaydan.

In an exclusive interview with AL-QUDS, Col. Fayiz Zaydan stressed that the airport will be ready within the next few weeks to ease the burden of Gaza Strip residents in view of the snags which they encounter at the crossings and the long waits at the land borders.

He added that the first flight from this airport will leave for Cairo in an official ceremony in which senior Palestinian and Egyptian officials will take part. He noted that the Palestinian planes that will use this airport will fly to many countries, including Egypt, Jordan, Cyprus, Syria, and Israel. [passage omitted]

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Algeria

Government 'Holding Negotiations' With FIS

MM2109115494 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 21 Sep 94 pp 1, 4

[Report by Kamil al-Tawil: "Algeria: Lamari 'Satisfied' After Visiting Madani and Belhadj"]

[Excerpts] London, Algiers, AL-HAYAH—The fourth round of the dialogue between Algerian President Major General Liamine Zeroual and five parties opened yesterday. While oppositionist press and political circles have launched a campaign against the meeting, on the grounds that it will achieve nothing, since the serious dialogue should be with the Islamic Salvation Front [FIS] which has not attended the meetings, AL-HAYAH has learned that the authorities are actually holding negotiations led by three generals with FIS leaders.

Reliable sources have told AL-HAYAH that the negotiations are led by General Mohamed Madani (Toufik), chief of military intelligence; Gen. Mohamed Lamari, chief of staff and commander of intervention forces; and Gen. Mohamed Bachin, presidential adviser holding the rank of minister (former intelligence chief). The sources said that the generals visited FIS leaders Cheikhs Abassi Madani and Ali Belhadj in their residence in Djenane El Mufti, and that the negotiations are continuing.

Individuals close to Lamari have told AL-HAYAH that he emerged from the meeting "satisfied." And that he assured those close to him of this.

A high-ranking source has told AL-HAYAH that the next step that the Algerian regime is considering after the generals' meeting with the two cheikhs is to wait for the FIS leaders to announce a "truce," whereupon—in return—the "disbanded" party would be rehabilitated and prisoners released. This "ba,ter" comes within the "statement-initiative" expected to be issued soon by the FIS leaders. [passage omitted]

In London, Cheikh Rabeh Kebir, chairman of the FIS Executive Committee Abroad, revealed yesterday evening that he had received a message from Cheikhs Abassi Madani and Ali Belhadj in which they say that they are still being held.

Kebir told AL-HAYAH over the telephone that in the message the two cheikhs express their belief that they are "still as good as prisoners, because the authorities have not released them and their legal status is still the same. (Permitted) contacts at family level are still limited. And people are scared to visit them for fear of being arrested. The same applies to the other released cheikhs (Abdelkader Omar, Nouroddin Chigara, and Kamal Kamazi)." Kebir added: "The two cheikhs are banned from making any press statement. (...) We demand their release and that of all jailed leaders. This was stressed in the cheikhs' message dated 6 September." He said that negotiations with the regime "are premature. Because the FIS' permanent leadership must meet to produce a legitimate solution and a decision on the negotiations. And the leadership means all the cheikhs involved in political and jihad action." He noted that "if parties that are not as popular as FIS are requesting time to consult their grass roots before the dialogue with the authorities, then the FIS must be allowed to consult with its leadership before taking any decision on the negotiations with the regime."

Statement on Last Round of National Dialogue

LD2109213194 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1830 GMT 21 Sep 94

[Text] In the wake of the fourth round of the national dialogue on 20 September, the presidency of the state today published the following statement: As agreed upon at the end of the meeting of 5 September, another meeting was convened in the framework of the national dialogue bringing together the representatives of the five following parties: the National Liberation Front [FLN], the Algerian Party for Renewal [APR], the Movement for Democracy in Algeria [MDA], the Ennahda Movement, and the Hamas Movement. At the opening of this meeting, the head of state made a preliminary statement, which has been published in full by the press. In this statement, President Liamine Zeroual recalled the three tasks the state and the parties taking part in the dialogue have pledged to undertake in the period between the two rounds of the dialogue. The political parties taking part in the dialogue are to reflect on the contribution necessary to ensure success of the dialogue. For the state's part, its task is to continue contacts with the officials of the dissolved party [FIS] and the prisoners in Blida so that the latter may clarify their position. Both the state and the parties should continue efforts towards parties absent from the dialogue in order to persuade them to join the participants in debates.

The head of state noted also that the Algerian people expect a great deal from this dialogue, and an objective analysis of reactions and comments from the Algerian society with all its constituents has clearly showed that the people expect results from the state and political parties, including the parties that are still absent. The head of state added that the matter could not be otherwise so long as dialogue meant the meeting of partners, each of whom bears a responsibility they must carry out. Matters could not be otherwise so long as the crisis, which this dialogue is seeking to resolve, is a political crisis that no one can say does not concern them.

The head of state went on to say: The transparency that prevails in this dialogue has allowed national public opinion to follow closely all that has been proposed to you on recording and following up this dialogue. Above all, the transparency has allowed you freedom to determine how it should be organized and run within the framework of praiseworthy principles that remain binding upon each and every one of us.

The head of state ended his preliminary statement by expressing the hope that we will all be able to participate in overcoming this misfortune for the benefit of Algeria and Algeria alone.

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The head of state said: To achieve this, I hope that everyone, including the absent political parties, will make Algeria's interest their real preoccupation.

Several issues were debated during the two rounds. We will look at them with our colleague Moukhtar Mehir:

[Moukhtar Mehir] On the issue of the parties that were invited but were absent, the head of state said that the state presidency had spared no effort to convince them to join those participating in the dialogue. These efforts, which have not yet succeeded, will continue.

The parties participating in the dialogue set out the efforts they had made with the same aim. Here President Liamine Zeroual indicated that the final resolutions this dialogue will produce must express the will of all the national political forces to ensure they are implemented and respected. Therefore we say on every occasion that the political parties have a national responsibility they must shoulder within this framework. This is the only way to extricate our country from the crisis it is experiencing.

The head of state renewed his appeal to the present parties to continue their efforts with the invited and still absent parties. He noted that these contacts will promote inter-party dialogue. He recalled that he had always encouraged inter-party dialogue with the aim of underpinning political pluralism and genuine democracy, which is effected through the acceptance and respect of the other within the framework of the respect of the constitution and the laws.

On the question of the dissolved party, the present parties requested clarifications about the recent measures taken in respect of the leaders and officials of the dissolved party, as well as measures announced by the state presidency communique on 13 September. Some parties demanded the participation of representatives of the dissolved party in the dialogue.

After listening to the arguments and views of his interlocutors, the head of state decided this question with the following statement:

When we resumed the dialogue on 21 August, I defined the framework and national constants that whoever desired to participate in this dialogue must abide by. The framework of the dialogue, I emphasize, is to respect the constitution and laws and to reject violence.

The national constants that must be respected within the context of this dialogue are the constitution, the republic, Islam as the religion of the Algerian state, democracy within the framework of respecting our national values, political pluralism, and the change of government through the free choice of the Algerian people. One must reject violence as a means of political action and respect private and public freedoms and human rights.

This framework and these constants remain a necessity that imposes itself on everyone, and I emphasize this today again, the head of state said.

Concerning the dissolved party, I believe that the clarity of the discussions we had round this table and the transparency that surrounded it leave no room for any misunderstanding.

On 23 August 1994, Mr. Abassi Madani sent a letter considered by many voices around this table and throughout the country as a positive step. I have expressed the same opinion and announced that if the clarifications we have asked for are forthcoming, then we shall look at how we will gradually work towards allowing the leaders of the dissolved party to search for ways and means of halting the bloodshed and enabling us all to progress towards restoring the country to a normal situation.

The contacts and letters that followed this initiative of Mr. Abassi Madani's enabled us to observe the will of all the leaders and officials of the dissolved party who were in Blida to work in this direction. This led us to take some measures allowing them to make this contribution to the debate. The communique announcing these measures was extremely clear.

But to remove any confusion, I would like to make it clear that at this stage nothing tangible has been discussed with the leaders of the dissolved party, who announced to us that above all they had to gather the opinions of their colleagues so that they could gain a more accurate idea of the situation and determine their stance.

As you may observe, we have not reached the stage of putting forward the problem of the participation of the dissolved party in the dialogue. I know your position on this issue, and you know the state's position. You know the conditions set out for the dialogue, and these conditions will remain, the head of state stressed.

On the issue of conditions known as conditions for the success of the dialogue, some parties have again put forward at length their demands related to the conditions for the success of the dialogue, which were an intrinsic topic in the previous meeting.

In this regard, the head of state observed that the state had exerted the basic efforts to achieve the success of this dialogue. For example, the head of state recalled the following efforts: the proposal for an open dialogue through which the parties themselves would choose the endeavor [as heard] and would formulate resolutions while respecting the determined framework and conditions; the wider transparency surrounding this dialogue; the state's efforts to convince the parties attending and the absent parties to come to the dialogue table; the fact that the great majority of the measures demanded as conditions for the dialogue's success had up till now been undertaken by the state unilaterally.

Therefore the head of state considered that he had the right to go back to the participation he had asked for from the parties to make the dialogue successful. This participation is expected in two essential issues: participation in halting the violence through calls to this end and through explaining

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Islam's opposition to this violence between Muslims; second, efforts to make absent parties join the dialogue.

The head of state expressed his satisfaction that some parties had begun to work in this direction and encouraged them to persevere. He called on the other parties to do likewise in the national interest.

The head of state said the debate on the conditions known as conditions for the dialogue's success had been conducted in depth up to this stage and called upon the political parties to begin to exchange views on the problem of managing the transitional period, which was included in the agenda proposed on 21 August.

Most parties present thought discussion of this issue was premature.

During the exchange of views on how to continue the dialogue, the parties in the talks expressed the wish for another pause in the current multilateral talks. The head of state accepted this suggestion and, on his turn, proposed that the dialogue remain open by means of bilateral meetings between the state and the invited or absent parties, pending a resumption of the bilateral meetings. Participants agreed upon this course of action, which will permit the fixing of a date for the next multilateral meetings.

Following the discussions held yesterday between the presidency and the five parties taking part in the fourth round of the national dialogue, the head of state made a statement in which he said: We, as well as the public, all agreed to admit that the resumption of this dialogue was marked by seriousness and a wish to arrive at a happy end of the crisis for the good of the country. Likewise, the transparency of this dialogue was a positive factor for the people to understand these debates.

The head of state also said: We all regret the absence of the other invited parties that have not joined us yet; we are determined to continue efforts to persuade them to join us in the interest of our country. The head of state said: In the context of respect for this dialogue and the national constants, I have left for you complete freedom to agree on an agenda and on how to conduct this dialogue; you could have used this freedom of choice to introduce an additional element in the agenda I had proposed to you.

The head of state further said: It was proposed to you that we should bring our efforts together to put an end to violence and bloodshed, and a debate was also proposed to you on a participation of the parties in the management of the transitional stage, even within the government. Ways of organising elections was also proposed to you. The statement also says: You have asked for a debate on the necessary conditions for a success of the dialogue; a debate took place that underlined that the most important measures you had proposed have been carried out. At the same time, I have urged you to offer your contribution to the success of the dialogue, especially through calling for an end to violence, explaining Islam is against violence, and trying to persuade the absent parties to join us.

The president said: With my agreement, a break was decided in the multilateral meeting. At the same time we agreed to leave the dialogue open on a bilateral basis between the state and each political party present at the talks, even with the parties that did not show. These contacts, the head of state said, would permit us to continue consultation and to agree on the next multilateral meeting as soon as possible.

Political Parties Comment on Outcome of Dialogue

LD2109220794 Algiers ENTV Television Network in Arabic 1900 GMT 21 Sep 94

[Text] As was said at the beginning, the meeting between the Presidency and political parties lasted some 12 hours. At the end of the meeting our television team was present and recorded for you the reaction of parties taking part in the dialogue. More details with Samia Azzi and Ahmed Magueache:

[Begin recording] [Ennahda leader Jaballah] The lateness was due to an attempt to issue a joint communique. A draft communique was prepared, but we could not reach an agreement on it.

The one thing agreed upon was to continue the bilateral meetings and to continue the endeavor to expand the dialogue and convince the rest of parties to take part in it.

[Unidentified correspondent] Between whom?

[Jaballah] Between the state and individual parties. Between the presidency and each individual party on its own.

[Secretary General Mehri of the National Liberation Front, FLN] The meeting was long because the outstanding problems are still unresolved. Of course there was a review of the previous stages, and an examination of the future was made. However, a number of problems are still unclear, particularly whether some parties were invited to the dialogue. This has led us to examine many problems. We have decided it will be better to adjourn multilateral meetings, leave the door open to bilateral meetings and consultations, and fix the date of the next meeting through consultation.

[Islamic Society Movement leader Nahnah] Frankly we have managed to achieve the unimaginable—drawing up a joint communique. Perhaps issuing a joint communique next time will be the beginning of some good for both the parties and the presidency.

Once we are able to give this crisis a good definition and draw up the conditions and the stages to overcome it, only then can Algerians think the political class is a sincere and honest class that could agree on a minimum level of harmony and concord to overcome this acute crisis, in particular, the problem of violence in our country.

[Acting secretary general Khaled Bensmail of the Movement for Democracy in Algeria] Today's meeting was to evaluate the situation. We have evaluated the one-month-old efforts with the presidency and other parties.

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As far as your question is concerned, it is not possible to resolve this acute crisis, which has been going on for nearly three years, in a matter of four meetings. It is not resolved easily. We have to meet again, to consult and discuss again. Also, there must be a continuity of our efforts, and we have to be patient. [end recording]

FLN Leader Mehri Interviewed on Dialogue

LD2009105194 Algiers ENTV Television Network in Arabic 1950 GMT 19 Sep 94

[Studio interview with Abdelhamid Mehri, secretary general of the National Liberation Front, FLN, by Nasreddine Allaoui; on 19 September—recorded]

[Excerpts] [Allaoui] Ladies and gentlemen, peace be upon you, and welcome to our meeting today with FLN Secretary General Abdelhamid Mehri. [passage omitted]

Mr. Mehri, welcome to this meeting in the studio. [passage omitted]

[Mehri] I prefer that we should deal with the problems that are preoccupying the people. The people are concerned today because there is a crisis, and the people are expecting that the dialogue will lead to the emergence from this crisis. If there are questions concerning the future ....

[Allaoui, interrupting] Yes, there are questions concerning the future ....

[Mehri, interrupting] I prefer to spend our time on these questions because we have been dealing with the past until now.

[Allaoui] The important issue too is ....

[Mehri, interrupting] No, the important thing, as far as we are concerned, is that the past and history are all right, but we have time to talk about history. We have time to discuss the internal issues of the parties, and we have time to .... [pauses] What concerns the people now? Where is the dialogue that leads to the country's emergence from the crisis?

These are the questions I was expecting. Is there, or is there no hope in this dialogue? This is the question posed in the street. If this dialogue will not lead to a solution to the crisis, then what dialogue do the parties think would lead to a solution, would take the country out of the crisis? Here I answer you and say to you—and we have said this concerning this current dialogue—we are not yet convinced that we have brought together all the factors for success. There has, however, been progress.

We believe that a dialogue that will lead to a result is a dialogue attended by all the parties, particularly the parties that have weight and responsibility to take the country out of the crisis. I hope that we will be able to bring together these parties. I do not know whether all the conditions are available for the participation of the FIS [Islamic Salvation Front]. I do not know. From our point of view, if the FIS attends, we should seek the presence of the Socialist Forces Front [FFS] and the rest of the parties—unless there is a categorical rejection of the principle of dialogue, of the principle of debates with all the parties. In such a case, we would have assumed our responsibility. However, we say that a dialogue liable to lead to a result is a dialogue that brings together all the influential people and parties, a dialogue that discusses all the fundamental problems. We have proposed some problems that we can explain later, if you want.

[Allaoui] Let us explain them now.

[Mehri] As far as we are concerned, since we have put forward a memo to the Higher State Council, we said that there were basic problems that, if resolved, would get us out of the crisis. First, how to get the country out of violence; second, how to go back to a functioning Constitution; and, third, how to return to the democratic process.

I forgot a fundamental point. After coming out of violence, how do we restore peace of mind to the society and to the families? Then, how would the country be run during this stage? In other words, how do we agree on a program and form a government capable of implementing it with our pledge to support the government on the popular level?

There is also the follow up to the dialogue—following up the outcome of the dialogue and following up the implementation. This question requires a formula. We had proposed a follow up committee, while others had proposed other things.

Let us take the Constitution as an example. Everyone, the state and the parties, are in agreement on considering the Constitution as the basis. For us, this principled position is not enough. It is not enough to respect the Constitution. We need to implement the Constitution. How do we implement it, and what does that mean?

Before us is a case of a combination of powers. The judicial, the legislative, and the executive powers are all in the hands of one authority. How do get out of this situation? Gradually. We have got proposals to offer.

There are the constitutional rights and freedoms stipulated by the Constitution. How do you implement them in reality?

There are the institutions stipulated by the Constitution, the elected councils. How do we set up these constitutional institutions?

Hence, within the question of the Constitution there are a great number of issues that we should discuss, and we should meticulously define the steps that would bring us back to constitutional life. What will we begin with, and with what will we finish? From our point of view, if we want to radically stop the violence, let us also discuss this subject. This means that solving this problem cannot be done through issuing an appeal. We do not believe that it can be done by issuing an appeal.

[Allaoui] You mean that the FIS leadership has not ...

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[Mehri, interrupting] No appeal from the FIS or anyone else. This is because it raises fundamental problems. How can we move over from the state of violence to a civilian peace? There are issues here. Will we do that gradually? Will we begin with a truce? What truce? How do we end with a final stopping of the violence? How do we justify the effects of the violence? How can a person who is now in the ranks of violence be transformed into a person in the ranks of electors? These are thorny issues. These are thorny issues. We also have detailed proposals regarding these issues, which we should discuss and agree upon.

With regard to the restoration of reassurances to the society, as we are moving from violence to normal political life, thousands of victims have left widows and orphans behind. This applies to everyone—to the security forces, those who have taken up arms, the civilians who have no guilt at all. How will these people be reassured tomorrow that this solution will restore security and reassurances to them? The people who are afraid that the democratic solution will leave them a target for other excesses, how can we convince the citizen that the presence of all these parties and their agreement will not be at the expense of one citizen and in favor of another.

It should not be at the expense of one party and in favor of another, even if the first party did not attend the dialogue. These issues are in need of discussion. The discussion of these issues will be total when the parties to the dialogue are all attending.

[Allaoui] For example, with regard to the parties, there are parties that say that it is impossible for them to be present at the dialogue round if the latter is attended by the Islamists. The Ettahadi Movement, for example, says this.

[Mehri] The Ettahadi Movement, as far as we are concerned, represents something else. Naturally, we do not object to the presence of any party or any force. The policy of the Ettahadi, however, is somewhat strange. If the Movement adopts democracy, then its ideas, in general, are the ideas that we have known for a long time now. I mean in the Marxist-Leninist movement, with all its ideology and results, there is something white and something black, progressive and reactionary, day and night, colonialist and free.

This is possible in theory, but where does this lead? It leads to a call for an all out war against so-called fundamentalism. Fundamentalism has its limits. Does this mean that we should declare comprehensive war against the fundamentalist alone? Will we wage a comprehensive war on these people? We do not understand this. In which means will we declare a comprehensive war? The Ettahadi Movement has its own project, and it wants to implement this project without going back to the people. This means that it pins its hope on the army and the security forces, where the sons of the people can be found with all their beliefs and tendencies. How can I employ the state forces for the implementation of a project of a party that has a respected view, but the party refuses to submit its project to the people? This means that the problem is that there is a residue of a thought that has been overtaken by time, and it is unable to develop.

[Allaoui] How can we modernize these people? For example, there is a fundamental difference between the Ettahadi Movement and the Islamic movements. They categorically reject dialogue with the Islamic movements. How can we reconcile them?

[Mehri] I would say we cannot reconcile them. This is a fact that we cannot reconcile between a democratic solution that defers to the people and a solution that is imposed from above. We cannot. We cannot.

We have tried the solution that was imposed from above. They claimed that problems will be solved when authority is strong and uses the power of the state. We are witnessing the outcome.

When we go back to the people, the people could make mistakes. However, I would prefer to go back to the people, even if it is wrong, rather than to leave the country in the hands of a power unknown to the people, a power anybody can join.

They said: We will impose a project. We will define the limits regarding who is acceptable and who is not, who is the fundamentalist and who is not. Is there a moderate or not; we will decide. Well, who gave you the right to decide? When the people give it to you, it would be reasonable.

[Allaoui] Mr. Mehri, I would ask you another question. If the FIS will join the dialogue while the armed action continues, would you accept the dialogue under the pressure of the armed groups?

[Mehri] Look here, the dialogue is not something we will share among ourselves and be generous to each other. No, the issue is not to give those with the most power even more. I have nothing to do with such a formula. I will only say that there are rules for running states and societies, and we have to agree on them. Then each one of us would be able to turn to the people and explain to them his project.

[Allaoui] The problem is not that of a project; it is about finding outlets for the crisis. For example, the FIS leadership cannot bring a halt to the armed action. Would the parties currently participating in the dialogue accept the involvement in dialogue with them?

[Mehri] In my opinion, I would not demand that. I would say that the outbreak of violence is everyone's responsibility. This is our point of view.

[Allaoui] How is that?

[Mehri] Our opinion is that the parties should discuss the subject of violence. Everyone should make proposals. We agree on a plan, and then we go to the people and tell them: We have agreed upon a plan that would take the country out of violence; we have this alternative peaceful solution. This is the point of view of the FLN, which it has explained to the officials.

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[Allaoui] Can we have the details of this plan now?

[Mehri] The plan is this: To face up to violence, one could ask Mr. Djeddi and Mr. Boukhamkham [FIS officials] to go and stop the violence. To speak frankly, we do not believe that they alone can stop the violence, but they have said that they did not accept this mission. In our view, a single party cannot stop violence. Given the facts, we know this is not perhaps the best and most effective way to stop violence. The best and most effective solution is that we listen to the proposals of one another, now that all the parties believe that the country needs to get out of violence. Being responsible, we discuss together ways of getting out of the spiral of violence. We lay down a plan together, and we start carrying it out together. This is our view.

Therefore, as far as I am concerned, I do not fear claims that the FIS would have an army behind it to impose its views. I am not prepared to accept a view that I am not convinced of, whether such a view comes from the FIS or from the authority. We meet in order to find a way out, and I believe that all those who come to the dialogue have a sense of responsibility to their country, of being Algerians who want good for their country. In the face of this situation, they all can have common points. I have nothing to distribute and nothing to give. The only thing is that we should look for a way out of the crisis in a way that does not harm any party. Our proposals are not biased toward any party, even our own party. They are general proposals that give equal rights to citizens, parties, and projects. [passage omitted]

The parties that took part in the dialogue have put forward the following issue: We demand that all measures be taken to enable the FIS to take part in the dialogue because it is an essential part in the search for an outlet from the crisis.

I do not know how this has crystallized now in practical terms and what is still pending. I do not know whether the FIS could prepare for tomorrow's meeting. I think the time is short and do not believe they can. We also do not know what has been arranged with the FFS because we also insisted on the need to resume contacts with them. In our view, any time we spend to persuade the effective parties to attend the dialogue would not be wasted. We would not lose it. It would be a gain if we were able to bring all parties together and raise all the issues among ourselves.

[Allaoui] Mr. Mehri, you have talked about the 1989 Constitution and said it was not enough just to respect it but that it should be implemented. First, is the FIS capable of respecting and implementing the 1989 Constitution, bearing in mind that it believes in, seeks, and works toward the establishment of an Islamic state, which is nonexistent in the 1989 Constitution?

[Mehri] In these cases, I would refer to what is before me. What I understood from the written positions sent to the head of state is that there was not only a preparedness but also a strong desire for the implementation. There is a strong desire for respect for and the implementation of the Constitution.

As for future intentions, it is rather difficult to tackle. Everyone has future intentions.

[Allaoui] Do you believe, very frankly, that the FIS would abandon its main objective, namely the establishment of the Islamic state?

[Mehri] I did not ask that. We would be naive to ask them to abandon their own project.

[Allaoui] I did not say you asked them to abandon their project. I asked if you believe it would abandon the highest objective of its program.

[Mehri] Look here. We are now in a crisis. Breaking out of it is in everyone's interest. The road out is clear. To say you should or should not abandon your project in the future, a communist will remain communist and will not abandon his project, although they are a minority. Whoever is a communist, is a communist who will not abandon his program, and they [communists] have minority [support]. Whoever pursues an Islamic state and has a conception of it will not abandon it. The FLN will not abandon its own program.

[Allaoui] Then, how can respect for the constitution [be ensured]?

[Mehri] Respect is ...[changes thought]...the constitution allows for all these things to be presented to the people. The 1989 constitution allowed for all the programs to be put forward to the people, and the people are the arbiter. Therefore, this problem does not arise for us. I differ conceptually with the FIS; I differ conceptually with the FFS; I differ conceptually with the RCD, because I have a party which has a plan and a program. The main problem is: should we raise arms against one another so that one [side] imposes its program? Or, another person will say that there should be no elections because so and so will win. This is the problem. The problem is this. The problem does not lie in the differences [of opinion], but it lies in the way these differences are reconciled.

[Allaoui] One final question only because we are close to the end of the program. Mr. Abdelhamid Mehri, the FLN has always been among the parties to defend once more the idea of making overtures toward the Islamic current to achieve concord and national reconciliation. Do you not also think that national reconciliation should also make overtures toward the people who, for example, demand the teaching of Amazighi [Berber language] in schools?

[Mehri] Yes. Concerning this issue, in 1980 the FLN adopted decisions to meet this demand, but unfortunately they were not implemented. Other issues have also not been implemented. The issue being raised at present is that we, in the memorandum which we presented to the Higher State Council, said that there are two aspects to the dialogue: one, finding a way out of the crisis; the other,

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keeping the parties to the dialogue in session in order to examine major reforms, among which was a policy for languages.

We have a proposal which goes like this: The issue of the linguistic policy in the country has to be discussed among the various parties to the dialogue at a subsequent stage, namely after we come out of the violence. Because as far as we are concerned the dialogue is not only aimed at overcoming the crisis and the current difficulties but it is also aimed at examining the affairs of the citizens, the country's bad economic situation, the social problems facing the citizens, and this period of change which could crush the weak sections of society. It is also aimed at renovating the structures of the state through real administrative reform; renovating and reforming the educational system; resolving the problems which are used, or could be used one way or another, to break national unity, including the language issue. We are prepared.

[Allaoui] Does the FLN think we can go as far as teaching the Amazigh language?

[Mehri] As far we are concerned, the door is open to all possibilities, the main thing is to examine them. Why should we examine them? Because in my opinion the situation of the Arabic language also needs to be examined and the same goes for the foreign languages. Everything must be examined because some people may, perhaps regrettably out of loyalty [as heard], think that when they address the people in modern Arabic they will not be understood and that when they use modern French the people understand them. These people exist. There are also people who attribute the country's decline to the [use of the] Arabic language. If the Arab countries are in decline, despite their development, in that case the Amazigh language will not do either, will it?

Therefore, for the country to progress peacefully it has to take this aspect into consideration. No Algerian should feel oppressed or deprived, either intellectually or culturally. We have tangible proposals to make on the subject, whether with regard to the Amazigh language, Arabic, or the foreign languages. If there is a serious dialogue and if we manage to bring the country out of the bottleneck, we are prepared to examine [the issue] with all sides.

[Allaoui] And continue the dialogue in other fields?

[Mehri] Yes because this is the basis. The main thing is not just to stop the deterioration but to find ways of pushing the country forward, rebuilding it and so on.

[Allaoui] Thank you Mr. Abdelhamid Mehri.

[Mehri interrupting] One last word, if I may.

[Allaoui] Go ahead but please do not be too long.

[Mehri] No. We will soon commemorate the 40th anniversary of the start of the 1 November [1954] Revolution, and we hope that the entire Algerian people, with all sections of society and with all political tendencies, will commemorate this anniversary in an atmosphere which signals the end of the crisis or at least an agreement on how to overcome the crisis. This appeal which the FLN Central Committee made last year is still present in our minds because frankly we do not see how we can possibly commemorate the 40th anniversary while we are still killing one another. Therefore, we hope that when this anniversary is marked the people are already delighted by the outcome of the national dialogue.

[Allaoui] Thank you Mr. Abdelhamid Mehri. Thank you ladies and gentlemen for watching this program. We hope to meet again in other programs next week. Goodbye.

Kebir: GIA 'Like Wild Horses'

LD2109155194 Madrid TVE Internacional Television in Spanish 1300 GMT 21 Sep 94

[Text] The talks between the regime in Algeria and five small opposition parties have ended without concrete results. Today, Rebah Kebir, leader of the FIS [Islamic Salvation Front] in exile, reiterated to Spanish Television in Germany his party's conditions for participating in this national dialogue. They include the release of all the fundamentalists and establishment of a framework of liberties within which the FIS can reorganize:

[Rebah Kebir in Arabic fading into Spanish translation] There are no new developments in the dialogue in Algiers between the government and the political parties, simply because the FIS is not participating, said Rabah Kebir—and it is not participating because its demands have not been met: the release of all of its leaders, not only the five who were released last week. The release of leaders such as [FIS chairman] Abassi Madani or [FIS deputy chairman] Ali Belhadj is a small step, says Kebir.

This 38-year old physics teacher, who fled Algeria two years ago and has applied for political asylum in Germany, believes that the legalization of the FIS is a precondition for the party to be able to hold meetings and draw up a platform for dialogue with the government. Those groups that criticize the contacts between the FIS and the government, he says, are in a minority—they represent a minimal part of the population. [Video shows Rabah Kebir seated in dining room opposite correspondent and speaking into microphone]

[Correspondent Daniel Peral] The FIS believes that the terrible radical Islamic groups—the armed group, the fearsome GIA [Armed Islamic Group]—can be controlled, and suggest an Arabic simile: The GIA, he says, are like wild horses—you simply have to tame them.

Armed Gang Burns Public Buildings at Night

NC2209105094 Paris AFP in English 0929 GMT 22 Sep 94

[Text] Algiers, Sept 22 (AFP)—An armed gang of about a dozen men has razed all public buildings in the Algerian town of Tablat to the ground in a night raid and

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fled before the security forces arrived, El Watan daily reported Thursday [22 September].

The gang used petrol bombs to burn down the post office, the public prosecutor's office, social security premises and two food processing plants in the attack overnight Monday, the paper said.

Witnesses told AFP that several shops were also destroyed.

Some 10,000 people have been killed, according to official figures, in a guerrilla war against the authorities by Moslem fundamentalists since January 1992.

El Watan also reported that security forces had broken up a network of medical support for armed Islamic extremists in the Bab Ezzouar and Dar El Beida regions, near the Algiers airport.

The group, run by doctors, treated gang members injured in guerrilla operations. Its leader, a 40-year-old osteopath, helped more than 45 people, the paper added.

The violence in Algeria began after the army intervened to cancel the second round of the first free elections since independence from France in 1962, which the Islamic Salvation Front (FIS) was poised to win. The government this month freed key leaders of the now outlawed FIS from jail in a bid to promote negotiations leading to a political settlement.

GIA Threats Empty Schools, Alter Curricula

NC2109132894 Paris AFP in English 1059 GMT 21 Sep 94

[Text] Algiers, Sept 21 (AFP)—A threat by armed Moslem fundamentalists to attack teachers and pupils and enforce strictly Islamic education is emptying many schools in secular Algeria, teaching staff in several regions said Wednesday.

The Armed Islamic Group (GIA), the most hardline of extremist movements waging a guerrilla war against the authorities, has imposed terms for education and warned it will strike at people those who fail to abide by them.

Several teachers, who all asked not to be named, told AFP that secondary school classes were empty in regions around the capital Algiers because of fear of the GIA.

The movement posted stickers in the major garrison town of Blida, south of the capital, banning any teaching of French, which was the main language for education until 1976, 14 years after Algeria fought its way to independence from France.

Staff said they had already stopped teaching French in small villages around Blida.

"On Monday, the headmaster at my school told me that some armed GIA members had come to fetch me. Fortunately, I wasn't there," one teacher said. "Now I'm looking for another job, elsewhere."

Before the new school year started last week after the GIA had laid down its terms, some 30 teachers and school heads were assassinated in attacks generally blamed on the movement.

Officials say that Moslem fundamentalists have also burned 538 schools down since the beginning of the summer.

In isolated mountain villages around Blida, schools that have not been wrecked in arson attacks are closed altogether, as in Bougara, just 30 kilometres (19 miles) from the capital on the coast.

In the eastern Jijel region, said to be under 'Islamic control', children frequently have their satchels snatched from them by armed men as they make they way to school, witnesses contacted by AFP said.

The GIA, which has declared a Jihad (holy war) and refused to be drawn into negotiations the military-backed authorities seek to hold with fundamentalist leaders, has said there must be no mixed classes.

It also insisted that all women teachers and girls who have reached the age of puberty must wear the Islamic veil and banned music lessons and physical education for female pupils.

Secondary teaching resumed despite the GIA's total ban on it and university courses, due to take effect 1 October, which declared that higher education was contrary to Islamic sharia law.

While many teachers have complied with the movement's terms in the Blida region and most schools are closed in the so-called 'triangle of fear' in the Cherarba, Eucalyptus and Meftah districts around the capital, security forces watch over those that have opened.

But education continues as normal in the mainly mixed secondary schools of Algiers itself, in regions around other coastal cities like Oran and Constantine, and in the south, where the fundamentalist influence is less strong.

Girls still wearing jeans, T-shirts or short dresses form noisy groups with the boy pupils, sometimes under the eyes of the police. Moslem fundamentalists have killed schoolgirls for failing to wear the veil.

In the Kabylie region east of Algiers, many teachers and pupils have been boycotting schools, but for a different reason. They have been called out by the Berber Cultural Movement (MCP) to press for official recognition of their language, Amizagh.

The MCB, which represents the descendants of Algeria's original inhabitants before Arabs stamped their mark on the country in the last wave of invasions, on Wednesday called for a general strike in the Berber 'capital' Tizi Ouzou and other towns.

Witnesses told AFP the call had been widely heeded.

Algeria's fundamentalist violence has claimed 10,000 lives, according to officials, since the military intervened

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in January 1992 to cancel the second round of general elections the now outlawed Islamic Salvation Front (FIS) was poised to win. The regime this month released key FIS leaders from jail as part of moves to promote a settlement.

Security Services: '11 Terrorists Eliminated'

LD2109172994 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 21 Sep 94

[Text] A statement issued by the security services today said that the security forces eliminated 11 terrorists in western and central Algeria in two operations conducted the day before yesterday by security patrols in the provinces of Tiaret and Bouira. The security forces recovered a considerable quantity of weapons and various equipment, the statement added.

Berber General Strike Call 'Widely Observed'

LD2209031094 Algiers ENTV Television Network in Arabic 1900 GMT 21 Sep 94

[Text] The Berber Cultural Movement [BCM] has cancelled the march that was planned to take place in Tizi Ouzou Province, but not the one that was planned for Bejaia. However, a general strike paralyzed Tizi Ouzou today. It was observed in support of the BCM's demands. More details with Rachida Hamadi:

[Hamadi] Had it not been for these pedestrians, one would have said this was a ghost town. Tizi Ouzou's economic and administrative sectors were paralyzed today. Shops shut down today in response to the BCM's call for a general strike, after its call for a school boycott. The BCM has been demanding the official recognition of the Tamazight language and that it should be taught in the schools.

Neftal gas stations are on strike today. The bus station is closed. All buses heading for the station were barred from entering. However, private cars outside the station were carrying out the task of transporting people.

Minimum municipal services and services at the post office were not guaranteed. The governorate office was deserted by its workers. The hospital was only running at 50 percent. Sometimes it makes the difference between life and death.

BCM's officials held a news conference at noon today. They thought that the strike was 100 percent successful. They reiterated their commitment to their demands:

[Begin BCM official Djamel Zenati recording] The BCM's call for the Algerian people to observe a general strike was widely observed by the masses, which have reiterated their commitment to BCM's legitimate demands and their readiness to continue their struggle until such demands are met. [end recording]

The university's doors are still shut; lessons have not yet begun there. What can be said about this strike is that strikers have stayed away from their posts.

Finance Ministry Clarifies IMF Agreement

LD2109153794 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1200 GMT 21 Sep 94

[Text] To dispel the fears of workers and union members, industrial restructuring was not included in the IMF standby agreement. The text of the document that was presented by Finance Minister Ahmed Benbitour to the monetary and economic committee did not refer to this issue, and proposals in that context were made some time ago. Abdelkader [surname indistinct] reports:

Finance ministry sources clarified that the agreement only deals with the overall financial and monetary budgets whose effective criteria were deemed positive by International Monetary Fund experts. The document, entitled "A Summary of the Standby Agreement," which Mr. Benbitour presented to the economic and monetary committees, specified the aims of the agreement and measures for stability.

Concerning liberating internal prices: the process began in 1989 and should speed up during this year and next year to arrive at a system whereby all prices are set by market forces. Based on that, the document adds, it has become necessary to receive an exceptional external monetary contribution to help reduce the burden of medium-term and long-term debt servicing. This is in addition to other financing to improve the balance of payments so as to ensure a new growth program while providing a long-term solution to the rate of debt servicing, which was 93 percent in 1994 compared to 16 percent the previous year. Easing the burden of debt servicing in the medium and long term would, according to the document, enable the Algerian central bank to have cash reserves exceeding $1.5 billion by the end of March 1995.

Egypt

Mubarak Interviewed on Arab Ties, Iran

NC2209081594 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0600 GMT 22 Sep 94

[Text] Cairo, 22 Sep (MENA)—President Husni Mubarak has emphasized that the Middle East peace process is continuing and that efforts are proceeding toward a comprehensive solution. He noted that the main problem that currently exists is the timeframe needed for Israel's withdrawal from the Golan.

In an interview with AL-AHRAM to be published today, Thursday, President Mubarak called on all parties to take advantage of the present favorable atmosphere to bridge the gap in views that currently exists. He stressed that this gap could be overcome because peace is now demanded by all peoples.

President Mubarak denied reports that Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa's recent visit to Israel was linked to preparations for an expected visit by the president to Israel. He pointed out that this notion is the product of the

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imagination of whoever had propagated it. However, he stressed that in principle there is no difficulty with him making such a visit. President Mubarak pointed out that Musa's visit to Israel had to do with the Palestinian issue. He noted that he had arranged this visit with Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin to discuss the progress in the implementation of the Declaration of Principles between the Palestinians and Israelis in the self-rule area.

President Mubarak told AL-AHRAM that Egypt's position regarding the Palestinian cause is firm and has never fluctuated. He noted that he always discusses the question of financing basic projects in the self-rule area with the donor states. He added: We are working with the donor states on the question of financing infrastructure projects in the self-rule area, and whenever the Palestinians request something, we go ahead and speak with the donors about it.

Asked about Egypt's position on Iraq, President Mubarak said: I sympathize with the Iraqi people and their sufferings, but I have to say that confidence in Iraqi President Saddam Husayn is lacking on our part and on the part of all the countries neighboring Iraq. The president expressed his belief that there is no hope of dealing with Saddam Husayn in the near future, adding that this does not mean criticism [hujum] of Iraq. The president denied having discussed the question of reconciliation with Iraq during his recent meeting with United Arab Emirates [UAE] President Shaykh Zayid in Geneva. He said that discussion during that meeting had dealt with relations between Egypt and the UAE and general Arab issues.

Asked about Egyptian-Kuwaiti relations, President Mubarak emphasized that Egypt's ties with Kuwait are strong and firm and cannot be undermined by rumors that some Kuwaiti personalities and societies are financing some suspicious quarters in Egypt.

Turning to Egypt's relations with Saudi Arabia, the president stressed that there is absolutely no problem with Saudi Arabia. He added: Riyadh's absence from the population conference, which was recently held in Cairo, is understood in light of Saudi Arabia's circumstances and out of confidence that its stands were not adopted out of any desire to offend Egypt.

Asked about Egypt's position regarding the practices of the Sudanese Government, the president said: There is no problem between Egypt and Sudan. The tension is the result of provocations by the national salvation government there, where anti-Egyptian media campaigns are launched. President Mubarak reviewed the recent course of events with Sudan, including Sudanese President Lieutenant General 'Umar al-Bashir's request to Libyan Colonel Mu'ammar al- Qadhdhafi, during the 1 September revolution celebrations in Tripoli, to intercede with Egypt to end the mutual media campaigns. However, he added, the Sudanese media continued to criticize Egypt. For their part, the Egyptian media, although free to say what they want, refrained from criticizing the Sudanese Government, but the state-controlled Sudanese media persisted in their campaign against Egypt. The president stressed that all these attempts by the Sudanese Government will never make him lose his patience, out of appreciation for the fraternal Sudanese people.

President Mubarak refuted the Sudanese regime's allegations that an Egyptian aircraft had overflown the Wadi Halfa region on a reconnaissance flight. He asked: Do I not know what is in Wadi Halfa? Are there huge armies coming to attack Egypt? He noted that approximately four million Sudanese live in Egypt, where all Sudanese are welcome, except those from among al-Turabi's teams and supporters.

Responding to a question on Iran's vacillating attitude toward Egypt, President Mubarak said that he would have liked Egypt to have good ties with Iran. He noted, however, that Iranian President Hashemi-Rafsanjani's recent slanderous statement that Cairo sowed the seeds of unrest in the region after opening the door to a peaceful settlement will not help improve ties. He stressed that it will not be difficult for anyone to tell right from wrong and that the Arab, Islamic, and African worlds know full well what the source of unrest in the region is.

President Mubarak wondered if Iran did not have excellent ties with Israel before its war with Iraq. He pointed out that Egypt's stance on peace and on the Palestinian issue is clear and well-known to all parties, primarily the Palestinian people who have the first and final say in defining their future. He said: I hope that Iran will not imagine that it alone knows all the facts.

Asked whether he would attend the Casablanca conference that will discuss the issue of the Middle East market, President Mubarak said: We are currently discussing the conference agenda and the level of the delegation that is likely to attend. I will make my decision in accordance with this assessment.

President Mubarak stressed that Egypt's international status prompted the countries of the world to hasten to support it in effecting economic reform, writing off the bulk of its debts, and assisting it to realize its development aspirations. He noted that the numerous visits he has paid to various countries since he assumed power in 1981 have greatly strengthened Egypt and the Arab nation in various issues.

In addressing on the benefit Egypt got from convening the International Conference on Population and Development, President Mubarak noted certain radio reports that tried to underestimate the benefit. He noted reports by London radio that exaggerated minor incidents to distort Egypt's name. He said: "I do not know why London radio does not like Egypt or the Arabs." He said: We have to bear with these silly things. He noted foreign press reports on Islamic extremism in Egypt, although it

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is not a matter of extremism but of criminals who carry out such operations and are fully paid for them to shake up Egypt. He stressed that they will not succeed.

Human Rights Report Distribution Said Barred

NC2109160294 Paris AFP in English 1314 GMT 21 Sep 94

[Text] Cairo, Sept 21 (AFP)—Egypt's human rights organisation accused the state security services on Wednesday of barring the distribution of its 1993 report which notes a rise in police torture and killings by Islamic militants.

The Egyptian Organization for Human Rights (EOHR) tried to have the annual report, which was handed out to the media in July, distributed by Egypt's leading publishers, the AKHBAR AL-YAWM and AL-AKHBAR, which are affiliated.

But state security officials gave verbal instructions prohibiting its sale on the market, EOHR member Mahmud Qandil told AFP.

Hilmi 'Id, deputy director of AL-AKHBAR, told AFP his company did not distribute the book because it "rejects books that tarnish Egypt's image." But he denied the state security was involved.

AL-AKHBAR turned down the report "because it contained things that had no proof," he added.

The affiliated companies have in the past published and distributed two EOHR books. But it was the first time that the EOHR tried to release its annual report to the public.

The 1993 report recorded 14 cases of death inside prisons "suspected to be due to torture and lack of health care," as opposed to six cases the previous year.

The report said medical reports and judicial examinations proved that "torture has become routine practice" against suspects in police custody.

It also blamed Islamic militants for an increase in "assassinations, eliminations, and extra-judicial killings." The year 1993 saw 207 such killings, a 50 percent increase over the period 1990-1993.

The report blasted both the government and Islamic groups for limiting freedom of expression, the former by banning publications and summoning journalists for questioning, while Muslim groups also applied pressure.

The EOHR "deplored" the move to block the report from reaching the public, calling it "another violation of the right to circulate information and of the freedom of expression."

But the organisation vowed to "continue its mission in defending human rights and in revealing all violations that occur in Egypt, regardless of the perpetrators."

Islamic Scholar Views Democracy, Peace Talks

NC2109122494 Cairo AL-AHRAM AL-MASA'I in Arabic 16 Sep 94 p 5

[Report on interview with Muslim scholar Shaykh Muhammad al-Ghazali by unidentified reporter; place and date not given]

[Excerpts] He is always a "revolution," working daily to correct the false ideas about Islam and to spread the sound thoughts that help Muslims everywhere bring security and safety to their religion and life. His "revolution" proceeds from a great sense of responsibility and awareness that on the day of judgment God will ask him, together with thousands of scholars, what they did with the knowledge He granted them.

This is his eminence, the great preacher, Shaykh Muhammad al-Ghazali, who told AL-AHRAM AL-MASA'I: We follow a religion whose miracle is a book. A religion that has its miracle in a book must generally be based on thought, persuasion, careful reading, and objective conclusions. [passage omitted]

I asked him: Is democracy a blasphemy and atheism, or does it agree with the principles of Islam? If there are similarities in some aspects and differences in others, what are they?

He answered: If democracy is meant as a way of shura [consultation] and a vehicle to realize nations' ambitions and preserve human rights, then it is a religious necessity. Indeed, if such a democracy is missing, religion itself may be lost. But there is a difference between Western democracy and Islamic shura. While the latter works within the text, the former is not governed by texts. That is, in the Western-type democracy a proposal to abolish capital punishment, for example, may by presented to the House of Representatives. If it wins a majority of votes, it becomes a law. Such practice would violate the Islamic text, which says that killers must be killed. This democracy, then, is rejected because it violates a religious text that has existed throughout the development of religion: from Judaism, to Christianity, to Islam.

I asked Shaykh al-Ghazali: God says: But if the enemy incline toward peace, do thou also incline toward peace, and trust in God. [Koranic verse] We, the Arabs, are inclined toward peace with the Jews, and this is in line with the Koranic verse. Some groups, however, reject this. What is your opinion, and the view of religion, of the current peace negotiations between the Arabs and the Jews?

He answered: Participation in peace conferences is not wrong. It is not treason, as some people who are unaware of the concepts of the true religion say. When we confront a proof with a counterproof, and an argument with a counterargument, we establish our right against Zionist settlement and expansion on the Arab land. But

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such negotiations must be based on principles and ideologies, not only on the Jews' deception and plots.

He added: The Arabs' attendance in peace conferences is neither a crime nor an act of treason. But we must prepare carefully what to say to the Israeli negotiator, who, in all his ideas, proceeds from the Torah and from false claims to keep Palestine, restore Israel's kingdom and Solomon's temple, and establish the Jewish temple on the rubble of the al-Aqsa mosque. The battle between Jews and Muslims has an end, and there must be negotiations to end these wars.

Support for Extremists Examined

Al-Mujaybil Interrogation

94AS0489A London AL-MAJALLAH in Arabic 4 Sep 94 pp 19-21

[Unattributed article: "Egyptian Security Official: Kuwaiti Suspect Said Money Was For Printing Religious Books, but Payee Does Not Own a Press!"]

[Text] Cairo—Although Egyptian security sources are still being reticent about divulging the reasons for the release of the Kuwaiti 'Abd-al-Rahman al-Mujaybil—a prominent member of the Society for the Revival of the Islamic Heritage, a well-known Kuwaiti charitable society, who was stopped and arrested on 1 April of this year after being charged with funding terrorism and extremism in Egypt—informed sources have told AL-MAJALLAH that the release took place at the request of Kuwaiti authorities and with a promise that neither al-Mujaybil nor any members of the Society would enter Cairo except on specified missions announced beforehand to the Egyptian authorities. The Egyptian authorities are said to have fully granted the Kuwaiti request and to have released al-Mujaybil, who spent nearly three months undergoing questioning by the Egyptian National Security Investigation Bureau. The Kuwaiti authorities supplied Egypt with complete and important information about the activity and goals of the society and other societies, which, they said, had charitable goals. Egypt, however, holds that they are behind funding terrorism in Egypt. Because good intentions are insufficient in security matters, the case of 'Abd-al-Rahman al-Mujaybil is now undergoing thorough study by the Egyptian security apparatus. It has been learned that the file includes a check for $15,709 that al-Mujaybil gave to an extremist. In his recent confessions he said that the person was going to use the money to print the book *Fiqh al-Sunnah with the commentary of Ibn Kathir for the Society. The Egyptian extremist for his part has stated that he owns no press and that there are no proofs of the book to which al-Mujaybil referred.*

Al-Mujaybil's confessions included full information about the activity of the Society for the Revival of the Islamic Heritage. The most significant information was that the Society has a foreign committee for the Arab countries. By means of this committee it follows activity to revive the Islamic heritage and receives contributions and aid from all the Arab Islamic countries into an account with the official Kuwaiti Government treasury.

Although al-Mujaybil did not answer Egyptian authorities about the problem of the link between the Society's activity and the check that was seized in the extremist's possession (the latter said that he had met al-Mujaybil by accident for a purely commercial purpose while the latter was looking for a press to print *Fiqh al-Sunnah* with Ibn Kathir's commentary), the fact that the well-known society's name comes up not only in Kuwait, but in all the Arab countries and in Afghanistan and Pakistan in this issue, opens the door wide for Egyptian security to review the process by which extremist associations are funded in Egypt. As the source states, the al-Mujaybil incident confirms that there are many hands supporting extremism and that long-existing confirmed private lines of foreign funding on which the police built their strategies no longer exist. Funding sources have become more diversified. What is needed above all is real, effective monitoring, so that the al-Mujaybil case and many other recent unannounced cases do not recur.

The information that a high security source gave to AL-MAJALLAH in an attempt to clarify the hidden aspects of the funding case, which is considered a real stumbling block to Egyptian security, is that the annual amount of funding is estimated at one-half billion Egyptian pounds. The money is for buying weapons and explosives, paying the salaries of executers of terrorist operations, and aiding the families of those in prison and others. This continued flow of money is behind the continuation of terrorist operations in the recent period.

Sources of Contributions

Before the al-Mujaybil incident, funding for extremists came from three main sources that the security agencies had narrowed down and were largely able to contain and circumvent. First were contributions collected abroad that reached Cairo in the form of checks drawn on a number of Islamic banks in secret accounts. Perhaps the most prominent collector of contributions was Dr. 'Umar 'Abd-al-Rahman, the mufti of the al-Jihad Organization. During his stay of over two years in America before his arrest, he is said to have collected tens of millions of dollars. He is said to have collected more than $200,000 for Bosnia-Herzegovina in one of the mosques of Toronto, Canada, after a Friday sermon on the need for holy war against the polytheists, and to have sent the money to secret accounts with a Cairo Islamic bank before the authorities could monitor the account and determine its number. Dr. 'Abd-al-Rahman later transferred his entire account to the bank's Khartoum branch, so that the contributions would be under the control of Dr. Hasan al-Turabi, the head of the Arab-Islamic People's Conference, an organization that is causing anxiety to security authorities in Egypt.

Egypt's former interior minister had announced that Egyptian authorities had confiscated two $100,000

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checks in the possession of Dr. 'Abd-al-Rahman's wife in al-Fayyum when she was leaving for overseas. The family of Shaykh 'Umar denied this at the time in a special interview with AL-MAJALLAH, stating that it was all a matter of media attempts to mar the shaykh's reputation. The family challenged the minister to produce the checks or submit the entire matter for investigation.

Media use of the funding question in the propaganda war between the two sides can also be seen in regard to what the "repentant" extremist 'Adil 'Abd-al-Baqi stated in his confessions a few months ago in Cairo. He revealed that checks from unknown sources were reaching Cairo on the secret accounts of some lawyers of the Islamic current in Islamic banks, checks that were distributed to all the groups according to a definite system. He confessed that he had received a check for about $7,000 from one of the most prominent members of this current in the Union of Egyptian Lawyers shortly after he joined the al-Shawqiyun Group in al-Fayyum.

In this regard, one can point to current investigations by the Egyptian public prosecutor's office into what some have considered involvement by one of the union board's most prominent members. He is said to have received for the union's account in one of the banks checks originating in Munich and to have deposited them to the union's account. Later he withdrew the money for himself in a quiet money-laundering operation.

Economic Activity

According to the security source, the second source of funding is connected to the domestic economic activity of these groups: retail stores, a Cairo taxi fleet, and many other activities. In addition, protection money is extorted from Copts and rich Muslims.

The third source is the most dangerous. Egyptian security information confirms the danger of funding by foreign individuals, groups, and associations. Some of the individuals are ordinary people who have somehow or other become involved in supporting these groups either by ideological or financial affiliation.

On the organization level, Egyptian authorities accuse al-Turabi's group in the Sudan and the international Muslim Brotherhood of funding extremism and its activities. The Muslim Brotherhood in Cairo contributes largely to the funding operations that the confessions of the extremist 'Adil 'Abd-al-Baqi revealed. There are Islamic associations in foreign countries, especially Islamic centers, that invite these extremists to join them as imams and preachers; the latter then turn the center into an arena for collecting, pooling, and remitting contributions to Cairo to breathe energy and vitality into domestic terrorist activity. The Islamic center in Geneva is where the prominent al-Jihad member Ayman al-Zawahiri, who plays a large role in this type of funding, is located.

What has the al-Mujaybil incident added to the funding map? An Egyptian source told AL-MAJALLAH that the incident confirmed beyond a doubt that behind the terrorists there are now a number of charitable associations that operate officially and with legal cover in the Gulf region. They are not limited to one particular country. They largely exploit religious coloration to implement their plots to shake security and stability in Egypt.

The source added: "These associations worked secretly for a time until they were uncovered by the confessions of extremists returning from Afghanistan and Pakistan. We as security authorities became acquainted with the role of these associations in funding the Afghan war and establishing relief points and refugee centers. When the war ended, the funds of these associations inevitably came to be used on other fronts, such as Algeria, Egypt, and the North African countries. In particular, these countries' extremists who participated in the Afghan war stressed to the officials of these associations the need to fund their jihad activity within their countries. They said it was a war that was no less a jihad than the war of liberation in which they had been signally successful."

We Warn You About Funding

Speaking about the problem of Gulf funding of extremist political movements, an informed Egyptian source said that most of this funding comes from ignorance of the nature of the organizations to which the funds are going. He said, "This is one of our main problems because it does not arise from a desire to fund terrorist individuals or movements. Rather it takes place very naively."

He said there is a well-known generosity in the Gulf, where contributions by individuals are collected for Ramadan, religious holidays, and times of crisis on the slogan of helping Muslims in various parts of the world. These funds then go to associations that claim to be helping Muslims in Bosnia, for example. The associations do indeed remit a small percentage of the money for the charitable cause for which it was collected, but they send most of the money to private addresses that handle the operations of funding the activities of extremist organizations—buying weapons, paying for transportation, or funding a terrorist group. He said that these operations take place without the knowledge of the contributors and donors.

The Egyptian spokesman urged that contributions be given only to recognized, regularly scrutinized associations in which funds are not misappropriated or diverted for dangerous purposes.

The other aspect is the collection of money by mail. Appeals are sent to pious and charitable individuals to support associations that voice Islamic slogans. Generally, they are either fraudulent associations or dangerous ones. A third way of gathering money is by advertising in the press under the names of charitable organizations or

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ones with a noble religious purpose with addresses in Western countries. He warned against dealing with such unknown addresses.

The source also said, "We are confident that people like al-Mujaybil in Kuwait are not willing parties to or funders of harmful movements that cloak themselves with religious slogans. However, there is no doubt that merely meeting a person on the street who claims to be pious is not a sufficient reason for trust. We do not object to encouraging the printing of Islamic books, supporting an Islamic charity, or building homes and schools for poor Muslims; we urge and support it. However, we warn against cooperating with officially forbidden organizations accused of committing acts of murder and violence. Cooperating with them wittingly or even unwittingly can lead to one's being punished. One may unwittingly become an accomplice in serious actions that destroy innocent lives." He said that the Egyptian police would track down all who helped fund these dangerous groups and would not show leniency in punishing them if they were proved to have participated by funding or action.

Aid, Competition

Newspaper reports in Cairo indicate that there are more than 20 charitable associations in Kuwait alone. These associations collect contributions and aid and to a large extent compete with Kuwait's official agency, the *Bayt al-Zakah*[alms-tax organization]. The most distinctive feature of these associations, giving them a special character, is that each of them has committees for local activity within Kuwait and committees for overseas activity. It is the latter about which much discussion is being raised, especially since their justification for existence no longer exists. These associations were founded to support the freedom fighters of Afghanistan. If security reports indicate that they are funding the activity of these people in their country, the continued existence of these foreign committees to a large degree confirms the truth of these charges.

According to Egyptian security information, the most dangerous of these associations may be the Social Reform Society, the center of Muslim Brotherhood activity in Kuwait. There is information that during the Afghanistan war it formed a special overseas committee (the Committee for the Islamic Call) that announced that its most important purpose would be to give monetary and moral assistance to support the cause of the freedom fighters (*mujahidin*)—the Egyptian government considered them extremists. The committee's main center in Peshawar, on the Afghanistan-Pakistan border, served as a staging point. Throughout the years of the war and afterward the town housed prominent Egyptian extremists.

Besides this committee, the association also has as part of its overseas activity the Committee for Charitable Assistance, which directs its efforts to the peoples of Palestine, Lebanon, and Jordan. The Islamic World Committee deals with the other countries of the Islamic Third World. All these associations seek to found and administer relief centers, schools, hospitals, and mosques under the charitable cover that the Egyptian authorities are now putting under the microscope because of its dangerousness.

The other association that Egyptian security is watching very carefully is the Kuwaiti Red Crescent and its sister organization, the World Islamic Charity Organization, which was founded in 1986 to collect $1 billion for poor Muslims. No one knows whether the money has really been directed to the poor or whether in the group's usage the extremists are the poor.

The *Salafi* current in Kuwait has a clear role in funding extremists in Egypt. Egyptian security files contain Case 162/1982, relating to the events in Asyut that followed the assassination of President al-Sadat. A prominent Kuwaiti businessman, Muhammad Habib Munawir, a member of the *salafi* current, was suspected in the case. Security reports showed that he had been involved in funding extremists with sums of $21,000, DM [German mark] 10,000, and 26,000 Egyptian pounds. All these sums were seized from extremists who stated that Munawir had given the money to them to fund their operations against the government.

Although the spate of information about these Kuwaiti charitable associations continues and Egyptian security fears are increasing day by day, these associations have been able thus far to stay behind the curtain and have covered their plots under many charitable designations and missions. The most significant of these is the building of mosques, something that is very noticeable in the Egyptian villages that Kuwaiti businessmen visited in large numbers in the last few years to buy land and erect mosques through special committees in each village. These committees collect contributions and oversee the building, while the businessmen make short visits from time to time.

Society Leader Statement

94AS0489B London AL-MAJALLAH in Arabic
4 Sep 94 pp 20-21

[Article by Ghunaym al-Matari in Kuwait: "Our Association Concluded Contracts for Two Projects in Egypt While I Was in Prison"]

[Text] Egyptian officials charge some GCC countries—Kuwait in particular, where there is much Islamic activity through Islamic associations—with helping terrorism. Officials in the GCC countries generally—particularly in Kuwait—have tried to deny these charges and affirm that official charitable associations engage in Islamic work unrelated to terrorism. The latest case to cause doubt led to the imprisonment of a Kuwaiti citizen, 'Abd-al-Rahman al-Mujaybil, in April of this year. The Egyptian Interior Ministry's preliminary investigative apparatus charged him with supporting

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terrorism and distributing financial aid to the children of terrorists killed during clashes with the police.

AL-MAJALLAH asked a leader of the Society for the Revival of the [Islamic] Heritage about the nature of the mission with which al-Mujaybil had been entrusted in Egypt. He said: "Al-Mujaybil was deputed by the association to inspect the progress of work on some projects, complete a study that he had begun for the building of a projected health center for kidney diseases, and agree on the printing of several Islamic books in the 'Scholar's Library' series. The latter was the cause for his arrest. The Egyptian government became suspicious of him while he was with the person with whom he agreed on printing these books, and he was arrested."

Circumstances of the Arrest

The circumstances of al-Mujaybil's arrest, according to the association's statement, were as follows. Al-Mujaybil had devoted much time and effort to charitable work. He made periodic trips to inspect a mosque or health center building or to relieve the unfortunate. Everyone who knows him in Kuwait and Egypt testifies to his sincerity, charitableness, and help to the needy. As for the check that was the subject of the charge, the statement says that al-Mujaybil had recently been deputed to inspect the progress of work in Egypt and complete the study of some projects that he had begun. He drafted a check in his name as a first installment for the printing of some books.

The association's statement contains a review of the associations's activities and projects in Egypt. It states that the Society for the Revival of the Islamic Heritage carries out all its projects in coordination with Islamic organizations officially recognized by Egypt of known respectability and reputation to carry out all the educational and developmental projects that it can. The society was one of the organizations that hurried to relieve the victims of the 1992 earthquake. This is something tangible to which the Egyptian government has testified through its embassy in Kuwait, which addressed a letter of thanks to the society for its charitable accomplishments in Egypt. Foremost among the society's projects is the Martyr of Kuwait Project. It includes two schools and a charity hospital, costing about one-quarter million Kuwaiti dinars.

After this statement by the Society for the Revival of the [Islamic] Heritage—a statement that has been described as strongly worded—the Kuwaiti press, on the basis of diplomatic directives, as well as to safeguard relations between Egypt and Kuwait, published nothing at all about the al-Mujaybil case and its circumstances. It left the solution to diplomatic efforts and the personal initiatives of certain individuals in the Kuwaiti community who have special relations with political circles in Egypt.

This step was unusual for the Kuwaiti press, which has always been quick to publish Kuwaiti issues.

Efforts to secure al-Mujaybil's release lasted many months. Finally, the Egyptian public prosecutor's office became fully convinced that there was insufficient evidence and information about the crime with which al-Mujaybil had been charged. He and the Egyptians arrested with him were released.

The decision coincided with a telephone conversation between the amir of Kuwait and Egyptian President Muhammad Husni Mubarak on the effort to release al-Mujaybil.

Al-Mujaybil returned to Kuwait. He said that he had no link to terrorism: he rejected violence in all forms, and all his concern had been directed only to charitable work through the Arab World Committee. The charge against him was false and spurious and had no basis in truth.

About the Egyptian citizen arrested with him, he said: "He is a person dedicated to the Islamic call. He has no previous record or connection to terrorists or extremists. He belongs to no Islamic association. He has a business agency with which I dealt." He added that he had only seen him in prison because he had sent him a person to stand in for him when the contract was drawn up.

As for any reservations after what had happened, al-Mujaybil answered that what had happened had taken place only because of passing security conditions and precautions in Egypt. Charitable work would continue, as evidenced by the fact that the society had concluded contracts for two projects while he was in prison.

Al-Mujaybil added that the Egyptian public prosecutor's office in the final sessions had asked him only one question: Do you have any other statements? This was conclusive proof that no case at all had existed.

As for how he had passed his time in prison, al-Mujaybil said that he had turned to God in prayer and worship. He also said that the society had set up its work in Egypt after Egypt had taken its unforgettable stand during the Iraqi invasion, in response to Egypt's favor, and to repay a debt of gratitude. "All I want to make clear is that our support of Egypt and our helping hand to her will not cease." He added that during his time in prison he came to know who were the terrorists and that they have no connection to charitable organizations. The Egyptian government knows them well and classifies them according to their affiliations.

Works Affected

'Abd al-Latif al-Qana'i, chairman of the Arab World Committee of the Society for the Revival of the Islamic Heritage, and the supervisor of all the projects with which al-Mujaybil was entrusted, said: "There was some effect on the committee's activities after the al-Mujaybil case. We temporarily stopped some projects that had not yet begun. However, work on projects that had actually been started continued."

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As for his evaluation of the circumstances of the al-Mujaybil case, he replied: "We trust the fairness of the Egyptian judiciary. We think it was the inauspicious time that caused this confusion. An indication of innocence is that the Egyptians who were with al-Mujaybil in prison have been released."

Editor Statement

94AS0489C London AL-MAJALLAH in Arabic 4 Sep 94 p 21

[Article by Jasim al-Shammari in Kuwait: "Meeting With President Mubarak Ended a Crisis of Confidence"]

[Text] The editor-in-chief of the AL-MUJTAMA' magazine, the organ of the Society for Social Reform (Muslim Brotherhood), Engineer Muhammad al-Basiri, said in a statement to AL-MAJALLAH that charitable associations in the Gulf states have a clear pioneering role in funding Islamic charitable work. This role may have angered parties who do not want Islamic activity to spread. Voices have therefore begun to be raised to combat and try to curb Islamic charitable activity.

Commenting on the Egyptian Government's statements on the activity of Kuwaiti charitable associations, Eng. al-Basiri added: "We love, respect, and esteem Egypt. We are very concerned about Egypt's stability and security and about settlement of domestic conditions on the Egyptian scene. We are very saddened by the terrorism by both sides on the Egyptian scene. Sadly, there is violence and counterviolence. This is not in Egypt's interest. These statements, which they consider misplaced, have hurt the feelings of many charitable associations in Kuwait. They can in no way approve of violence, terrorism, and extremism. Gulf charitable associations in general and Kuwaiti ones in particular have never been proved to have funded terrorism, to have helped it, or to have had any role at all in its funding."

Eng. al-Basiri indicated that Kuwaiti charitable associations had continued to support Islamic and humanitarian work on the Egyptian scene until the incident in which 'Abd-al-Rahman al-Mujaybil was accused of funding extremists and terrorists in Egypt. This had led to some, but not all the associations, pausing to reconsider how to deal with the Egyptian scene, lest their members be accused of the same charges as al-Mujaybil.

The Egyptian Government and some of the parties in Kuwait moved to repair the situation. Al-Mujaybil was released, but there remained a crisis of confidence until the Egyptian Government invited the heads of Kuwaiti charitable associations to meet President Husni Mubarak and tried to restore trust between the two sides.

Eng. al-Basiri said that part of the problem resulted from the absence of clear official channels of communication for this aid. The general trend during the coming period therefore will be to distribute charitable aid by clear official, publicized, and advertised means under the supervision of various Kuwaiti and Egyptian authorities.

Eng. al-Basiri ended his interview with AL-MAJALLAH by saying that as Kuwaiti charitable associations do not approve of violence and extremism, so they do not approve of the attempt of some governments to describe and brand all Islamic groups and charitable associations as extremist and as funding terrorism.

Sudan

IMF Not To Impose Compulsory Withdrawal

EA2109203494 Omdurman Republic of Sudan Radio Network in English 1800 GMT 21 Sep 94

[Text] The International Monetary Fund board of directors has decided unanimously not to submit a recommendation on imposing compulsory withdrawal of Sudan (?to the) meeting of the Council of (?Governors) of the fund which is due to be held in October. The decision was based on a report submitted by the IMF mission to Sudan in which it indicated that Sudan has fulfilled all its obligations within the financial policy as well as the issue of the refunding of debts.

Chad Leader Ends Visit; Red Sea Access Agreed

EA2109203094 Omdurman Republic of Sudan Radio Network in English 1800 GMT 21 Sep 94

[Text] Chadian Prime Minister Dr. Nouradeen Kassire Delwa Koumakoye left [for] home, concluding a three-day visit to Sudan during which he met with President al-Bashir and a number of senior officials. Kassire, in a statement before his departure, described the visit as successful, pointing out that the two countries, during the meeting of the joint ministerial committee, have settled several issues of common interest.

In the weekly Foreign Affairs Ministry's forum, the director of the African desk, Ambassador Muhammad al-Makki Ibrahim, has stated that the outcome of the joint ministerial meetings between Sudan and Chad covered the political and technical cooperation. He said Chad will now have access to the Red Sea across the Sudanese land. Chad will also benefit from Sudanese experience in the fields of agriculture, irrigation, education, military, and security fields.

SPLA Leader Garang Interviewed on Splits

AB2109174994 London BBC World Service in English 1515 GMT 21 Sep 94

[From the "Focus on Africa" program]

[Text] The collapse of the Sudan peace talks in Nairobi last week and the bitter exchanges between the Khartoum government and the regional mediators of IGADD [Intergovernmental Authority on Drought and Development] have made it increasingly likely that the civil war in southern Sudan will intensify. The question is: How

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able are the SPLA [Sudanese People's Liberation Army] to resist? Long ago, they split between John Garang's wing and Riak Machar's SPLA-United. Then, SPLA-United became disunited when Riak Machar and Lam Akol fell out and a further complication has been William Nyuon's splinter. So, before the peace talks the rebels were fragmented, to say the least. On the line to Nairobi, Robin White asked John Garang what the situation was now.

[Begin recording] [Garang] Well, the situation is shaping up, in the sense that this group has been fighting alongside Sudan Government troops despite all their claims that they are fighting for self-determination. The facts on the ground are that Lam Akol, who is Dr. Riak's number two, is now with the Khartoum. William Nyuon, who is the chief of staff, is with the Khartoum government....

[White, interrupting] What are they doing with the Khartoum government?

[Garang] The Khartoum government is supplying them with arms and they are part of the Khartoum government's forces. They are part of the militias of Khartoum.

[White] And, Riak Machar, what about him?

[Garang] He is welcomed back. He knows his position in the movement.

[White] But, are you talking to him at all?

[Garang] The situation is that of Khartoum fighting us, and if they stop fighting the SPLM [Sudanese People's Liberation Movement] and point their guns at Khartoum, fight even one battle against Khartoum, I will have a lot to talk with them about.

[White] In other words, nothing has improved at all in your relations with them?

[Garang] No, there is improvement in the sense that there is increasing realization from within their ranks that they are on a wrong cause. So, some of them have formerly joined the regime—(John Kulang), Carabino Kuany, William Nyuon. Others have resigned—(Dola Tuil) and others. Others are joining us—(John Okwaki) and others. So, there is improvement in the sense that the situation is becoming clearer to our people, and our people are uniting their ranks again. [end recording]

Tunisia

Ghannouchi: Government Hostility 'Dangerous'

BR2009143694 Brussels LE SOIR in French 20 Sep 94 p 2

[Interview with Rachid Ghannouchi, exiled chairman of the Tunisian Islamic movement Ennahda, by Marc Roche in London; date not given: "The Algerian Situation and Relationship Between the Government and the Islamic Salvation Front"]

[Text] [Roche] What is your reaction to the measures to release the principal FIS [Islamic Salvation Front] leaders?

[Ghannouchi] It is an interesting development, perhaps even the start of a new era in the history of Algeria and of the whole region, a development as significant as the coup d'etat against democracy. Having said this, other conditions must be met if dialogue is to continue, such as the release of political prisoners, the lifting of the ban on the FIS, the opportunity for all its leaders to assess the new situation. The country is in urgent need of a national solution which does not divide the Islamic camp.

[Roche] But the GIA [Armed Islamic Group] has repeated its opposition to all dialogue with the authorities?

[Ghannouchi] There are questions regarding the true identity of the GIA. Other hidden forces are manipulating this movement in order to give a bad image of the Islamic movement. We are opposed to any violence, whether from the GIA or other groups, against innocent people, against foreigners.

[Roche] How do you explain the present worsening of relations between "brother" Maghreb countries?

[Ghannouchi] How can you have a peaceful Maghreb with the reigning fever of violence in Algeria? The Moroccan Government has acknowledged that the recent attacks in the country were organized by the Algerian secret services. The aim of this destabilization operation is to push Morocco into adopting the same anti-Islamic security measures already in place in Tunisia and Algeria. A first move toward easing the situation in Algeria could unblock the stalemate in Tunisia. The Tunisian Government has no other choice but to open up to dialogue with the Islamists.

[Roche] Are not the principal losers in this dialogue between the FIS and the government the secular democracies?

[Ghannouchi] Certainly not. If the secularists succeed in convincing the majority of the people that their ideas are correct, they must be allowed to assume power. The governments in Sudan or Iran are just one face of an Islamic regime. Our conception is different. Our struggle is for a democratic Islamic Government, based on free elections. Economic and political liberalism can perfectly well coexist with Islam.

Belgian Hostility Dangerous for Future

[Roche] How do you judge the Belgian Government's attitude to the Islamists?

[Ghannouchi] Belgium follows France. And France is adopting an emotional response. The French Government, which for example refuses access to its country for even the most moderate among us, is acting according to its domestic political ambitions.

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The Belgian Government's hostility to us could be dangerous for future relations between Belgium and the Maghreb. Whether France and its allies want it or not, the Islamists are going to come to power in Algeria.

The United States and Great Britain are being very open in their approach. I have friends who applied for political asylum in Belgium more than two years ago and are still waiting for their case to be dealt with. This is regrettable.

[Ghannouchi] How do you interpret the benevolence of the British authorities?

[Roche] The Islamic conferences in Wembley and Sheffield stress the difference in behaviour between France or Belgium on the one hand and Great Britain on the other.

The latter has a better understanding of the Muslim world. It is also more aware of its strategic interests in the Arab world. It adopts a much more reasoned approach to the whole subject of Islamism.

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Kuwait

Joint Panel With Iraq on 'Missing' Said Agreed

NC2109111994 Paris AFP in English 1026 GMT 21 Sep 94

[Text] Kuwait City, Sept 21 (AFP)—Kuwait has agreed to join Iraq on a panel of experts to investigate the fate of Kuwaitis who went missing during the 1990-91 Gulf crisis, a newspaper reported Wednesday.

The sub-committee, proposed by the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), is to begin work soon and could lead to "eventual" visits to Iraq to study files on the "missing," Al-Siyasah daily said.

Kuwait says 625 of its nationals taken to Iraq towards the end of the January-February 1991 Gulf war are still being held there.

The ICRC, acting as a go-between, suggested the idea of a committee during a meeting between Kuwaiti and Iraqi delegations at its Geneva headquarters last September.

"Iraq immediately agreed" to the proposal, said Shaykh Salim al-Sabah, head of the Kuwait National Committee for Missing People and Prisoners of War.

The panel's work would be "purely technical and has no political character," he said, quoted by Al-Siyasah.

Baghdad admitted for the first time at the September meeting that 45 Kuwaitis had been taken prisoner, but said it had "lost trace of them" because of uprisings in the south of the country.

Iraq invaded Kuwait in August 1990, but its troops were driven out by a US-led coalition in February the following year.

Oman

Industrial Drive Planned With Japan's Help

NC2109131394 Paris AFP in English 1110 GMT 21 Sep 94

[Text] Abu Dhabi, Sept 21 (AFP)—The Gulf state of Oman intends to set up large projects as part of a long-term industrial drive with Japanese help to diversify its oil-reliant economy, its trade and industry minister said.

Maqbul Bin-'Ali Bin-Sultan said the projects, involving petrochemicals and other industries, would be based on intensive capital and technology as Oman presses ahead with plans to reduce dependence on foreign labour.

"The ministry is planning to step up support and incentives for existing industries and new export-oriented projects," Maqbul said in an introduction to a new book on Oman's economy, extracts of which were obtained by AFP here Wednesday.

"We are also conducting studies on an industrial development strategy that will stretch until the year 2005 and involve giant ventures in order to boost the industrial sector's share in the economy. It will be implemented in cooperation with the Japanese Agency for International Cooperation."

Oman, which is not an OPEC member, has launched sweeping economic reforms to offset weak oil prices that have created a persistent deficit in its budget and forced it to revise its current five-year development plan.

The reforms focus on privatisation, attracting investment and providing incentives to industrial ventures.

The government has approved a giant petrochemical project at a cost of 700-800 million dollars, to be financed mainly by the private sector. Oman is the first Gulf state to admit private funds into petrochemicals.

Another giant project on the cards is a six-billion-dollar gas liquefaction plant, which will produce nearly six million tonnes per year when it is completed in 2000.

Other ventures include a 200-million-dollar power plant and two sewage treatment projects which will all be managed by the private sector.

Maqbul said the long-term plan also included setting up more industrial zones similar to those in Rusayl, Raysut and Sahar. He said the new zones would be based in Nizwa, Sur, Buraymi and Masandam, which controls the vital Hormuz Strait, a passageway for nearly one fifth of the world's oil exports.

Oman produces around 800,000 barrels per day of oil, of which nearly 35 percent is supplied to Japan, also a key exporter to the sultanate.

The reforms, which gained momentum after the Gulf war, have started to produce results, with officials reporting a rapid growth in the non-oil economy. From 7.6 percent in 1991, the non-oil Gross Domestic Product surged by 12 percent in 1992 and nine percent in 1993.

Officials said they expected high growth rates in 1994 due to a sharp increase in local and foreign investment and establishment of new ventures.

Saudi Arabia

Foreign Minister Receives New Ambassadors

LD2109140194 Riyadh Saudi Arabian Kingdom Radio Network in Arabic 1130 GMT 21 Sep 94

[Excerpts] His Royal Highness Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal, the minister of foreign affairs, received (Sergio Marcos Konson Flores), the new Brazilian ambassador to the Kingdom, in his office this morning. [passage omitted]

His royal highness the foreign affairs minister also received Khalid Muhammad al-Musallam, the new ambassador of the State of Bahrain to the Kingdom, in his office this morning. [passage omitted]

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His Royal Highness also received (Hubert Mourki Moudou Lahore), the new French ambassador to the Kingdom, as well as (Tamba Minyourou), the new Japanese ambassador to the Kingdom. [passage omitted]

The new ambassadors presented his royal highness the foreign minister with copies of their letters of credence as ambassadors of their countries to the kingdom, prior to presenting them to King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz Al Sa'ud, custodian of the two holy mosques.

Minister Denounces 'Hostile' Press Campaign

NC2209062294 Paris AFP in English 0235 GMT 22 Sep 94

[Text] Riyadh, Sept 22 (AFP)—Saudi Interior Minister Prince Nayif Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz on Wednesday [21 September] denounced what he said had been a hostile foreign press campaign aimed at harming the interests of Saudi Arabia.

"The Kingdom is the target of a recent campaign in certain media that is intended to harm it," Prince Nayif told reporters here.

"We are not surprised by these campaigns and we know where they originate," he said without elaborating.

In a recent statement, published in the international press, the London-based Committee for the Defense of Legitimate Rights—a Saudi human rights group—charged that Saudi authorities had arrested more than 1,000 political activists, including clerics and university professors.

The committee described the alleged crack down as "a declaration of war on Islam by the ruling clique."

Statistics on 'Comprehensive Development' Reported

LD2109141994 Riyadh SPA in English 1247 GMT 21 Sep 94

[Text] Riyadh, Sept 21, SPA—The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia is witnessing a comprehensive development rise in all spheres and began enjoying a prominent position in terms of development and progress among other countries of the world.

The Kingdom's great achievement could be attributed to the steadfast and ambitious plans charted out by the late King 'Abd-al-'Aziz, the founder of the Kingdom and followed by his successors who showed and are showing unwavering persistance to remove all obstacles and realise more and more success and prosperity for the Saudi citizens.

Figures released below clearly show the extent of the Kingdom's marvelous development and progress in various sectors, which surprised the world and won global admiration.

In the sphere of education, billions of riyals were spent over the past years to promote educational institutions nation-wide. According to official statistics, a sum of sr [Saudi riyals] 140 billion were spent between 1410-1415h or almost 18.6 percent of the total money allocated for the fifth development plan, which is now in progress.

The number of students in various schools (male and female) totaled about 3.6 million while the figure for teachers reached 260,000.

The Kingdom's seven universities and teachers institutes are joined by 165,160 students in 99 colleges. They are assisted in their educational pursuit by 12,222 members including 6,268 Saudis.

In the health sector, the total number of hospitals reached 274 in 1411 with 41,151 beds alongwith 1,701 primary care centres nationwide. There were about 26,151 doctors, 52,867 nurses and 29,758 technicians.

In the communication field, the total length of the paved road network in 1412 reached 127,698 km. There are 25 airports including three international ones in Riyadh, Jeddah and Dhahran with a fleet of 106 planes. Telephone networK involves 1.6 million lines in 450 rural and urban centes and linking the Kingdom with 196 countries round the world. Besides the advanced telex service, there are 273 telegraph centres and more than 500 post offices with 24 express mail centres nationwide.

The total output of electric power in the Kingdom was estimated to be 82 million m.w/h in 1412. The total length of the electric supply network reached more than 15,000 km with distribution networks of a total length of 86,000 km serving 6,101 rural and urban centres and the total number of subscribers went up to about 2.6 million.

The agricultural sector also accomplished similar progress and the Kingdom has now realised self-sufficiency in a number of farming products including wheat and vegetables and dates the production of which touched 4 million, 2.4 million and 55,000 tonnes respectively and the production of fruits also reached 922,000 tonnes. Similar achievement was realised by the animal production sector including dairies, egg and chicken, and red meat products.

Twenty-three water desalination plants were set up on the coasts of the Gulf and the Red Sea with an output of more than 500 million gallons and 3600 megawatt of electricity and there are four plants under construction.

In industrial field, the total number of operational factories until the end of 1414 reached 2,234 with an invested capital of sr 151.2 billion. They employed about 196,000 workers.

United Arab Emirates

Iran Urged To Seek 'Peaceful Solution' on Islands

JN2109130394 Abu Dhabi AL-ITTIHAD in Arabic 19 Sep 94 p 1

[Untitled editorial]

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[Text] We do not know how long Iran, a neighborly Muslim country, will remain negative toward the call by His Highness President Shaykh Zayid Bin-Sultan Al Nuhayyan for a peaceful solution to the issue of the three islands belonging to the United Arab Emirates.

We know, and so does Iran, that we live in a civilized world under international laws, charters, and norms that guarantee sovereignty, respect borders, safeguard human rights, and reject the principle of seizing others' territories by force.

We also know, and so does Iran, that the islands of Tunb al-Kubra, Tunb al-Sughra, and Abu Musa were and will continue to belong to the United Arab Emirates despite efforts to impose a fait accompli. Besides, we have evidence and documents which confirm our possession of these three islands.

Furthermore, we know that Iran is a Muslim and neighborly country and that the security of the Gulf is everybody's responsibility. We are concerned about its stability and about driving the specter of tension away from it. However, Iran must know in return that concern about security and stability does not mean, in any case whatsoever, the relinquishment of sovereignty. And, if Iran too is concerned about the region's security, then it is its duty to respond to reason and act according to logic.

The UAE [United Arab Emirates] repeatedly called on Iran to solve the islands issue, but all these calls were in vain. Our only choice now is to resort to the International Court of Justice to maintain our rights and interests. So, let us go together and wait—together—for the court's decision. This is total justice. Arrogance, procrastination, and stubbornness are useless and do not stand against documents and evidence.

Radar Network To Detect Illegal Immigrants

NC2109115194 Paris AFP in English 1033 GMT 21 Sep 94

[Text] Abu Dhabi, Sept 21 (AFP)—The United Arab Emirates (UAE) has set up an advanced radar network along its coastline to detect growing numbers of infiltration attempts by illegal immigrants, mostly Asians, an official said on Wednesday.

Colonel 'Abdallah al-Mulla, acting chief coast guard, said 4,031 people and 132 boats had been seized this year while trying to sneak into the country, which has one of the highest per capita incomes in the world.

"We have completed installation of an advanced radar network covering the whole coastline from the eastern region (in the Gulf of Oman) to Abu Dhabi," he told AL-ITTIHAD newspaper here.

"The network is now playing a main role in seizing illegal entrants despite their different disguise techniques."

He said the coast guard would soon be equipped with new sophisticated patrol boats and was coordinating with the armed forces to foil infiltration attempts in the mountains along the border with Oman.

Al-Mulla did not give details about the patrol boats but the federal cabinet this week approved 30 million dirhams (8.17 million dollars) for the purchase.

Police records showed most illegal immigrants were Iranians, Afghans, Indians and Pakistanis, who came in search for jobs in the oil-rich Gulf country. Between 1973 and 1993, nearly 25,000 illegal immigrants were caught while trying to land on the UAE's shores.

A senior police official said recently the number of those who succeeded in entering the UAE far exceeded those captured. He said they had managed to get in because the 600-kilometre (375-mile) shore was poorly guarded.

Yemen

YSP Exiles Call For 'New School of Thought'

MM2209102094 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 20 Sep 94 p5

["Declaration of Principles for the Rectification of the Yemeni Socialist Party's Course of National and Political Action and for the Achievement of a Comprehensive National Reconciliation" issued by the Yemeni Socialist Party leaders abroad; no date given]

[Text] London—In the course of the consultations and discussions held in the past period since the end of the Yemeni war which undermined unity, wasted the country's resources and energies, and exposed the South to plunder, theft, and humiliation, some people imagined that, in the light of the war's results, the South was defeated and should accept the terms of the victor in that unjust war.

Such a conclusion would not only harm national unity, deepen the wounds, and increase the bitterness but would also hamper a comprehensive national remedy that would correct all the historical political mistakes, dress the wounds realistically, and seriously and responsibly absorb the lessons of the national action experiment in Yemen before the unity and during the past four years in order to lay down sound foundations for national action and determine the political system for the future on the basis of the Pledge and Accord Document, the national consensus document.

Comprehensive national reconciliation must be preceded by a correction to the concepts of the Yemeni Socialist Party [YSP]'s political action course and its attitude to the southern political forces which had struggled, fought imperialism, and contributed to the achievement of national independence on 30 November 1967 which crowned the struggle of the Yemeni people and their patriotic forces.

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Accordingly, the political action system should be restructured on new foundations and concepts based on correcting historical mistakes in political action made in our country and benefiting from the good experience gained by our people in their work and their struggle against British imperialism on the one hand and against injustice, hegemony, and deviant internal authority on the other. Our concept for the rectification of the party's course of political action in our country stems from the ability to correct and act on the following issues:

1. The correction of erroneous positions on Islam:

Islam is not just a written first article of the constitution. It is a creed, a Shari'ah, an identity, and a way of behaving. With it almighty God honored the Arab nation, saying in his holy book: "You are the best of peoples, evolved for mankind, enjoining what is right, forbidding what is wrong" [Koranic verse] God is all-truthful. Decisive clarification of these matters in the context of the program and in the context of the exercise of political action tops the nation's main objectives. The following two positions must be corrected:

A. The position using secularism as a cover and ignorantly ignoring the real meaning of the eternal Islamic message.

B. The position of rigidity and extremism in the name of Islam, a position which undermines and distorts the real meaning of the eternal Islamic message.

2. Unity and homeland:

No believer in God and his prophet would disagree that unity is a great thing, guided by God's words: "And hold fast, all together, by the rope which God (stretches out for you) and do not be divided among yourselves; and remember God's favor to you, for you were enemies and he joined your hearts in love so that by his grace ye became brethren; and you were on the brink of the pit of fire and he saved you from it." [Koranic verse] God is all-truthful.

The required unity is unity based on amity, cooperation, fraternity, equality, equity, and free will, not unity based on one party harming another on the grounds of military power, nor one of hegemony and domination of one party over another. We are advocates and men of unity based on fraternity, cooperation, solidarity, equality, and equity.

3.A. The position on building the national economy:

Over the past three decades our country applied economic policies on the basis of which scores of methods and programs were tried with the aim of building the national economy and ensuring a fair distribution of wealth. They all failed to achieve their objectives and failed to achieved the desired development because of the shaky and changing position on private property, public property, and distribution of wealth.

B. Establishing social justice: Islam has called for that and so have all reformers since societies became divided into groups and sectors. Yemen today needs social justice for its people through an economic policy that would serve that great target and and through the consolidation of the political and legal system in society through the elimination of the consequences of the class struggle theory, the nationalization of private property in the South, and the plundering of public property and public and private wealth in the North which that theory represented, resulting in financial and administrative corruption, lethargy, negligence, and individual corruption.

The remedy to that lies in sound conduct and practice, adherence to the privisions of the constitution, the law, and tradition; promotion of the necessary social consciousness to safeguard private and public property rights; the organization of coexistence among the various sectors of society on the basis of the preservation of the political, economic, and social rights of all members of the society; freedom of economic activity and the encouragement of excellence; and in allowing the formation of parties and organizations in accordance with the democratic concept of political, economic, and cultural pluralism through laws that organize that process.

4. Education and knowledge:

The world will enter the 21st century in five years but Yemen is still backward, and that is because of the rulers' narrow-minded outlook and erroneous approach to education and the aspects of its use in the various walks of the nation's life. Extricating the nation from the state of poverty, ignorance, and disease basically requires using education as a way to advancement and to economic and social progress.

5. International relations:

For the past 30 years and to this day Yemen has been subject to the policies of regional and international blocs and groupings. It has lost much because its foreign policy and foreign relations were not managed on the basis of recognition of the historical, geographical, and religious facts, heritage, and links with its neighbors and brothers in the Arabian Peninsula and the Gulf, the Arab and Islamic worlds, and friendly states worldwide.

Rectification of that course requires a change of outlook and attitude as far as relations among the states of the region are concerned, especially between our country and the brothers in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, Oman, the Gulf states, and also the Horn of Africa countries. The policy of political and regional blocs should be abandoned and there should be a reactivation of our country's role in the context of the Arab League and the Islamic Conference Organization on the basis of mutual respect, equality, and mutual interests, as well as interaction with the current trends of the age by dealing with all states on the basis of international law and the new international order which respects our country's interests.

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The Yemeni people have paid an extremely high price for the policies and practices of the former and current authorities. Without correction and without clarity based on these facts, that policy will remain subject to the personal whims of individual officials, with our people remaining the first and last victim of that mentality and that destructive, isolationist policy.

These five issues are the focal central issues on which our program is based and on which cooperation with all the sincere people in Yemen and abroad should be based, whether they are individuals, parties, or organizations; and the same applies to the brothers and friends, the aim being to pool and consolidate sincere efforts in order to build a happy, free, and prosperous homeland and climb out of the whirlpool of political hypocrisy, false slogans, mutual accusation, and infighting.

We declare that we do not care so much about the names or positions of individuals or authorities as we do about adherence to a position and commitment, in word and deed, to these objectives by the individuals, parties, and authorities.

The only alternative to the former political school that was based on violence, coups, conspiracy, and murder is the creation of a new school of thought and practice, a school of peaceful and democratic struggle, and a renunciation of violence to rid the Yemeni mentality of that inherited characteristic which has prevailed throughout the past centuries. Fulfillment of the teachings of the new school would face serious difficulties because of the military and tribal structure and because of the massive inherited reservoir of violence in Yemen.

Our people and friends who welcomed:
1. The Pledge and Accord Document,
2. The resolutions of the Arab League Council and the UN Security Council,
3. The appeals made by brothers and friends rejecting and condemning the war, do reject the results of the imposed unjust war and cannot possibly recognize arrangements based on the results of that war, because that would mean hegemony and domination by one party and the replacement of constructive dialogue with force. They will therefore continue their efforts for the promotion of dialogue as the way to a comprehensive national reconciliation to restore respect to the South and lay sound and realistic foundations for national action to consolidate security, stability, and peace and open the way for development and prosperity. Sooner or later the policy of violence, force, hegemony, domination, and political trickery, deception, and hypocrisy will end, and right will prevail and wrong disappear, because it is bound to.

"God forgive us if we have been forgetful or have erred." May God be our guide.

YRG Elections, Basic Law Endorsed

JN2109203394 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 21 Sep 94

[Text] The first general congress of the Yemeni Reform Grouping [YRG] today elected Shaykh 'Abdallah Bin-Husayn al-Ahmar YRG chairman for the next stage. It also elected Muhsin 'Abd-al-'Ali al-Hasan deputy chairman, and Dr. 'Abd-al-Wahhab Lutfi al-Daylami chairman of the YRG's Judicial Department.

After the elections, Shaykh 'Abdallah Bin-Husayn al-Ahmar chaired the congress sessions. He invited nominations to the Shura [Consultative] Council membership. A vote-counting committee headed by Dr. 'Abd-al-Wahhab Lutfi al-Daylami was elected.

The results of the Shura Council elections will be announced once the vote-counting process is completed.

The first general congress of the YRG continued its meetings at the War Academy today to complete its debate on the basic law draft, some articles of which were amended. Additional articles were incorporated into the draft, including an article that stipulates that the YRG chairman, deputy chairman, secretary general, assistant secretary general, and Shura Council chairman cannot hold their posts for more than three terms. The YRG Higher Committee membership has been expanded to include 15 instead of 11 members.

After a thorough debate at a session held under the chairmanship of Dr. 'Abd-al-Wahhab al-Daylami yesterday evening, the congress endorsed a report submitted by the YRG secretary general regarding the YRG's activities over the past four years.

Group Calls For Liberation of Saudi Provinces

NC2109210194 Paris AFP in English 2029 GMT 21 Sep 94

[Text] Sanaa, Sept 21 (AFP)—A newly-formed group called on Wednesday for an armed struggle to liberate two Saudi provinces claimed by Yemen.

The National Front for the Liberation of Najran and Assir provinces, announcing its creation in a statement dated from Abha in southern Saudi Arabia and sent to AFP here, called for "an armed struggle" to free these territories.

It urged "men enamored of peace and human rights organizations to support the sons of the Yemeni people in Najran and Assir in their just struggle for independence and liberation from the hegemony of the al-Saud regime."

The movement "is committed to fight with all means to end the Saudi occupation of the provinces" taken from Yemen, the statement said.

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The statement did not refer to Jizan province, which with Najran and Assir, is the focus of a border dispute between Sanaa and Riyadh.

The three provinces are currently controlled by the Saudi government under the 1934 Taif accord signed by both capitals.

Sanaa, which claims these provinces as its own, said that the accord expired in September 1992 and is opposed to it being renewed.

A series of meetings in the last two years between experts from both sides has failed to resolve the problem.

Relations between the two neighbors, which had been tense since the 1991 Gulf war, took a turn for the worse with Saudi Arabia's alleged support for the southern separatists in the May-July civil war in Yemen.

Exiled Southern Leaders Offer Reconciliation Plan

MM2109152694 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 20 Sep 94 p 5

[Text] London, AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT—Yemeni Socialist Party [YSP] leaders abroad have proposed a "draft declaration of principles to correct the course of the party's national and political action" with a view to achieving comprehensive national reconciliation. This is in the framework of their rejection "of the results of the unjust, imposed war," in which the South was defeated and as a result of which it has to "accept the victor's terms." They urged the Yemeni parties and political and parliamentary figures to discuss it.

The draft declaration is aimed at avoiding personal and partisan accusations and securing a [favorable] national and regional atmosphere for the sake of rebuilding and development, especially as southern leaders responded a few days ago to accusations which the Yemeni president had leveled at his opponents and a number of fraternal states supporting—he said—their position.

While the draft declaration of principles stressed the need to open a new page on the national and regional levels because of the link between them, a statement signed by leaders of the southern alliance formed during the war has condemned "the attack and accusations launched against fraternal states, which supported and helped the Sanaa regime and its head by offering billions [currency not specified] to build various projects like schools, hospitals, roads, colleges, and dams, and also to build up the administration and the Armed Forces."

The statement is signed by 'Abd-al-Rahman al-Jifri, Salim Salih Muhammad, 'Abd-al-Qawi Makkawi, Sulayman Nasir Mas'ud, Haydar Abu-Bakr al-'Attas, Muhsin Muhammad Abu-Bakr Bin-Farid, 'Abdallah al-Asnaj, Salih 'Ubayd Ahmad, and Haytham Qasim Tahir.

The statement denounced "the scandalous contradiction between the attempt to move closer to the brothers and the exposed blackmail." The statement focused on "the absence of justice and equal citizenship and the mentality of domination and tyranny that led (Sanaa) to launch the unjust war on our people in the South." The statement exposed the duality in the regime's position: "the regime's weakness in arresting lawbreakers in Sanaa, and its tyranny in aiming massively destructive weapons against the South. The world saw it destroying villages and towns, shelling residential areas in Aden, cutting off water supplies, and looting these areas to humiliate people and attack their dignity."

The statement pointed out that "it has been proved to our people and the world that it was 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih's regime which waged and prepared for the war. That it sparked off the war after purchasing large quantities of weapons and ammunition beforehand and obtaining materiel, expertise, and intelligence help. And that it used the Iraqi weapons stockpiled in Yemen."

The statement said that the weapons purchased under a deal concluded during the war and after the announcement of the separation did not arrive in Yemen until the battle was settled in the Sanaa leadership's favor. It stressed "in the name of all our people's sons that this regime has lost the constitutional and legitimate competence to rule our country. And that it is a regime of aggression and domination based on murder, terror, and aggression, oppression, corruption, and tyranny." Thus it has to "accept a democratic and peaceful dialogue and recognize our people's right to self-determination, without any domination or compulsion" and on the basis of the Pledge and Accord Document and its implementation within the framework of the unified states, in order to achieve comprehensive reconciliation. The new draft declaration of principles published by the YSP leaders abroad is a step designed to avoid entering the labyrinth of charge and countercharge and represents a move toward constructive work.

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Minister Hammadi Receives Azerbaijani Minister

JN2009171194 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1540 GMT 20 Sep 94

[Text] Baghdad, 20 Sep (INA)—Culture and Information Minister Hamid Yusuf Hammadi has stated that the U.S.-Zionist-Atlantic aggression not only attacked military targets, but also every aspect of life.

During a meeting with Azerbaijani Deputy Prime Minister Elchin Efendiyev [title as received] and his delegation, Hammadi said the treacherous aggressors committed planned crimes punishable by the international law; they bombed dams, power and energy projects, drinking water purification projects, civil shelters, homes of defenseless citizens, historic sites, mosques, and churches.

Hammadi added that the evil ones used internationally banned weapons, causing a disease among their troops known as "the curse of Iraq." The evil ones completed their aggression through the Iranian infiltration as part of the chapter of treachery and treason designed to set ablaze and destroy public institutions.

Hammadi indicated that the gallant Iraqis went to work immediately after the aggression by launching a nationwide campaign led by President Saddam Husayn to reconstruct what the evil ones destroyed and implement new gigantic projects in a record time that demonstrated Iraqi creativity and skill.

The Azerbaijani official lauded President leader Saddam Husayn's wise and rational leadership. He stressed that the people's rallying around leader Saddam Husayn has been a powerful tool in confronting the aggression.

Efendiyev added that the secret behind the Iraqis' strength lies in their ability to achieve scientific and technical excellence and circumvent problems. He indicated that the 30-state aggression against Iraq increased the Iraqi people's confidence in themselves and their capabilities, thus enabling them to reconstruct what was destroyed by the aggression.

Efendiyev added that the Iraqi and Azerbaijani peoples are facing a common challenge represented by the forces hostile to peoples' hopes and aspirations. This requires promoting relations in various fields between both friendly peoples, he noted.

Joint Cooperation Protocol Signed

JN2209105594 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1930 GMT 21 Sep 94

[Excerpts] Baghdad, 21 Sep (INA)—Iraq and Azerbaijan signed here today a joint cooperation protocol in the cultural and media fields. The protocol was signed for the Iraqi side by Culture and Information Minister Hamid Yusuf Hammadi and for the Azerbaijani side by Deputy Prime Minister Elchin Efendiyev.

Hammadi and Efendiyev exchanged cordial speeches expressing their pride in the historic and cultural relations between the Iraqi and Azerbaijani peoples. [passage omitted]

Efendiyev expressed great appreciation for Iraq and its leader President Saddam Husayn whom he had the honor to meet. He indicated that Azerbaijan and Iraq are two Muslim countries linked by history and religion, and that their peoples are linked by a common struggle based on culture and principles. [passage omitted]

The protocol, whose signing ceremony was also attended by the Iraqi Culture and Information Ministry's two under secretaries and the Azerbaijani culture minister, provides for Iraqi and Azerbaijani readiness to participate in cultural and media festivals and activities held in both countries, as well as the exchange of journalists to report on general activities, events, and developments in the cultural, social, economic, and political fields in both countries. [passage omitted]

Earlier, Hammadi met with Efendiyev and his delegation. Hammadi briefed the delegation on Iraq's achievements in the field of reconstruction and on the gigantic new projects. He also reviewed the agricultural and developmental importance of Saddam River, which will reclaim approximately 6 million donums of agricultural lands. This river will also provide navigational services and desalinate the Tigris and Euphrates Rivers, disposing of over 80 million tonnes of salt annually.

Former French Chief of Staff Departs

JN2109124394 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1215 GMT 21 Sep 94

[Text] Baghdad, 21 Sep (INA)—Jeannou Lacaze, former chief of staff of the French Armed Forces, and his delegation left Baghdad today, concluding a visit of several days to Iraq.

The delegation had talks with Iraqi officials on relations between Iraq and France.

Mubarak's Statements to Saudi Papers Criticized

JN1609133194 Baghdad AL-QADISIYAH in Arabic 8 Sep 94 p 1

[Article by Hani Wuhayyib: "The Tragicomedy!"]

[Text] God bless the soul of our great Arab poet al-Mutanabbi who was the first to note what befell Egypt and to recount its tragedies. There are many Egyptian tragedies. He was also the first to point out a kind of a mournful Egyptian laughter. And now, it seems history has turned full circle and al-Mutanabbi is again alive, experiencing the ignominy of our time and witnessing Husni Mubarak, the new pharaoh of Egypt, acting out new comedies in what he says and how he behaves. This is not strange for those who know Husni Mubarak and his "logic" which is a school in "illogic", his submission to the foreigner, and his full readiness to implement any

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role assigned to him by his masters at the right time and under the right circumstances.

Mubarak's astonishing readiness to make press statements to the Saudi papers AL-HAYAH and AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT, and his calumnies in the recent statements he made to his government papers on Iraq without any preludes or justifications, were real tragicomedies. He spoke in his staccato way, omitting facts and events. As far as he remembered, Iraq was the one that led the boycott against Egypt. But he did not bother to ask himself: Who returned Egypt to the Arab League and the Arab fold? Was it not Iraq and its leader Saddam Husayn, for whom Mubarak harbors all this unjustifiable hatred and goes on saying he said things he did not say, with such boring repetition? How strange of Husni Mubarak and his allies and buddies, Fahd and Jabir. He spoke about his special fraternal relationship with them and affirmed that he would not do anything without their advice. The newspapers of "Kuwait" spoke about an Iraqi message of reconciliation, yet Husni Mubarak denied that and affirmed that the source was "Kuwait." But it was a "golden opportunity" that he exploited in order to direct his calumnies and insults at Iraq, which had neither sent such a message nor spoken about it. As the old saying goes: Once you know the reason, you cease to wonder.

The periodic review of the blockade on Iraq is only a few days away. Husni, who was the Americans' godfather in the criminal aggression against Iraq, is bound to continue the role of carrying out the directives of the U.S. tyrant in an endeavor to prolong the blockade against Iraq. Husni Mubarak also seems to enjoy the pas de deux. The special fraternity with Fahd and Jabir is desirable, especially since both are shivering in panic from the change in the international situation in favor of Iraq and the possibility of lifting the blockade in the near future, which made them untie their purses and pay Husni Mubarak what their stained shameful hands could afford generously, especially since Mubarak reminded them about the "alleged billions" which they paid to Iraq during its battle against the Iranian aggression. Here is where the motives of the game become clear and the players appear naked in the circus.

Egypt is boiling. Poverty, hunger, and disease are widespread despite the cancellation of its debts, the generosity of its righteous brothers Fahd and Jabir, and the aid of the International Monetary Fund under complete normalization with the Zionist enemy. The boiling goes on even after the Egyptian press has ceased repeating the word "socialism," the new nouveau riche have gone on a rampage in the kitchens of the open-door policy, and Husni Mubarak's democracy has been applied with truncheons and armored cars roaming the streets of Cairo and other Egyptian citizens.

By God, Egypt will never remain silent about injustice. The sons of Egypt will never accept Husni Mubarak's ingratitude to Iraq and its struggler leader Saddam Husayn after all they have done for the good, patient people of Egypt. Egyptians have lived in Iraq for two decades as honored and dignified brothers shielded by the leader Saddam Husayn and the love of the Iraqis. None of the things mentioned by Mubarak—and we refuse to mention them here—have happened to them.

Iraq and its leader are fine. Iraq has toppled the enemy with its people's unity, patience, steadfastness, and solidarity with their historic leaders.

The game of the blockade has been exposed. It has become a purely American blockade. The Iraqis will destroy its last link in the near future.

The faces of the Iraqis will be whiter and the faces of Husni Mubarak, Fahd, Jabir and their supporters and servile followers will be blacker.

History will say its word and go. And Husni Mubarak's calumnies will remain with him.

The man cannot change his nature, and it is really tragicomic.

Mubarak Said Spreading 'Lies'

JN1609130194 Baghdad AL-'IRAQ in Arabic 8 Sep 94 p 1

[Editorial: "Egypt's Noble People Or the United States and Mubarak?"]

[Text] U.S. Vice President Al Gore had every right to praise Husni Mubarak's role during the treacherous 30-state aggression on struggler Iraq. He had every right to shed light on some of the details of that "big effective role in setting up a coalition with the United States." This was one way of showing appreciation for those allies who are deeply involved in the U.S. and Zionist plans.

But Al Gore had no right to equate the stands of Husni Mubarak with those of the noble Egyptian people and to mix the cards by saying: "Egypt and its president were with us as basic and effective motivators in the war against Iraq"!

It seems Al Gore was ignorant, or pretended to be ignorant, of the clear and true pan-Arab stands the sons of Arab Egypt adopted on the aggression against Iraq and the continuation of this aggression in the form of an unfair blockade. It suffices to recall the bloody clashes in the streets of Cairo and other Egyptian cities during the aggression and the mammoth demonstrations that broke out at Cairo, 'Ayn Shams, Asyut, and Alexandria universities in support of Iraq, despite the regime's oppressive forces.

Has the vice president failed to see the current wide and real gap between the policy line of the Egyptian regime and the Egyptian people's genuine pan-Arab feelings and full sympathy with the causes and concerns of the Arab nation, including the cause of the Iraqi people, who are

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facing the most savage conspiracy faced by the Arabs in their contemporary history?

We are certain the Americans know these facts very well. They know the current regime does not express the conscience of Egypt—people, history, and affiliation—and that Husni Mubarak represents only himself and a handful of people who are completely immersed in conspiratorial plans that seek to weaken the Arab nation and target the living and luminous models in it.

Otherwise, how do we explain the shameful attitude of the head of the Egyptian regime and his repeated lies and claims about Iraq, especially after the masks of the aggression have fallen and the facts have become sufficiently clear to everyone that what happened before and after 2 August 1990 was no more than a multilateral conspiracy with different aims and that Husni Mubarak played the role of instigator and motivator, as admitted by Al Gore and other U.S. statesmen?

At any rate, a quick glance at the political and economic conditions of the Egyptian regime confirms beyond all doubt that deviation from the Arab nations's interests and alignment with its enemies cannot but lead to more deterioration. The current attempts to brighten up the image of the regime will not save it from its serious dilemma or regain some of its lost strength.

INA Reports al-Sahhaf Sanctions Interview

JN1609203494 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1825 GMT 16 Sep 94

[Text] Baghdad, 16 Sep (INA)—Foreign Minister Muhammad Sa'id al-Sahhaf has said that the United States, which led the military aggression against Iraq, is persisting in its arrogant efforts to annihilate the children of our people by maintaining the economic sanctions, which have been imposed by a resolution drafted by its State Department in cooperation with Britain.

In an open dialogue aired by the Television of Youth from Dar al-Salam this afternoon, the foreign minister said that the resolution imposing the embargo is a dangerous precedent in modern history. He pointed out the extreme cruelty and hatred which characterized the U.S. diplomacy's drafting of the resolution and seeks to inflict the greatest harm on our people. Yet, he said, that diplomacy brags about its respect for human rights and claims to be protecting human freedom.

The minister discussed the Iraqi diplomacy and its political efforts in this regard. He said that this effort is based on questioning the legality of embargo resolution. He indicated that it is a legitimate Iraqi right to defend its security and vital interests, which do not at all contradict international interests within the framework of relations built on friendliness and noninterference in others' affairs.

He stressed that, despite the four-year-old U.S.-led embargo against Iraq and the suffering and major hardships that this embargo has brought for our people, our national will will remain independent and based on firm stands and principles under the leadership of President Saddam Husayn and his determination to confront the forces of evil which seek to destroy all that is civilized and human.

Muhammad Sa'id al-Sahhaf stressed that the international support for Iraq and the understanding of its views on both Arab and international levels, especially by the UN Security Council member states, have exposed the lies of the U.S. Administration and its agent henchmen who paid billions of dollars to perpetuate the blockade for the sole reason of hurting Iraq, for it is the Arab nation's bastion and pioneer in upholding the principles of freedom and independence.

He said that the international situation has recently shifted completely in favor of Iraq, as evidenced by Iraq's relations with Russia, Italy, France, and others, and by those states' willingness to restore relations to their previous normal situation or establish close relations with Iraq in the service of common interests. He said that this explains the U.S. dilemma and isolation, which, in light of recent developments, need not be verified.

Muhammad Sa'id al-Sahhaf reviewed the Arab and international situation and its developments in light of the continued U.S.-led plot against the will of the international community under the canopy of the so-called new world order. He also reviewed the U.S. "feverish attempts to control and loot peoples' resources and wealth." He said that the world community—individuals and organizations—is now called upon more than ever before to expose the tricks of the U.S. policy, which runs contrary to the most basic rules of international law approved by all international conventions and human principles.

The minister also reviewed the constant principles governing Iraq's policy of maintaining good relations with neighboring countries, including Turkey and Iran, stressing in this regard Iraq's eagerness to achieve regional states' common interests.

'Aziz Talks With Foreign Relations Council

JN2109204194 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 1800 GMT 21 Sep 94

[Text] Deputy Prime Minister Tariq 'Aziz has reviewed the current situation between Iraq and the UN Security Council during a meeting he held tonight with the Foreign Relations Council.

The meeting was attended by members of the council, which is headquartered in New York, and includes representatives, ambassadors, businessmen, and former U.S. politicians.

The meeting, which lasted one and one-half hours, was moderated by Hermann Eilts, former U.S. ambassador to Saudi Arabia and Egypt. Dr. Riyad al-Qaysi, Foreign

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Ministry under secretary, Nizar Hamdun, Iraq's permanent representative to the United Nations, and Lieutenant General Dr. 'Amir Mahmud Rashid, director of the Military Industrialization Organization, also attended the meeting.

Saddam Gives Instructions at Cabinet's 20th Session

JN2109163494 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1330 GMT 21 Sep 94

[Text] Baghdad, 21 Sep (INA)—President Saddam Husayn has said: While we are continuing our cultural awakening, we must always remember to encourage the sublime values and practices through which we can excel over others; namely, the values of a just legal system, creative learning, a valiant fighting army, and an honest party. Our Arab and Islamic history is full of such values and practices, and there are many examples of adherence to principles and of sacrificing oneself for the sake of these principles.

His excellency added: Based on this, when an official in our country commits himself to something, he must be responsible for this commitment inasmuch as he is responsible for and committed to his honor. Our grandfathers paid the same degree of attention to both the judiciary and the Islamic message. This is because one of the pillars of this message is to spread justice among people. To make our judicial system reach this level, we must shed light on any deviation which might occur in our judiciary so the values and merits of a just judge will continue to be sublime and exalted. The party and the people must help us achieve this. We must not fear anyone when speaking the truth in order to reduce mistakes, keep deviations to a minimum, pursue our march, and follow what is right in our daily life.

His excellency made this statement when he chaired the 20th session of the Council of Ministers. During the session, the council discussed a study prepared by the Justice Ministry, which included proposals and solutions to settle lawsuits that are creating a heavy burden for the courts. The president had ordered that this study be prepared.

During its 20th session, the council also discussed the grain production plan for the 1994-1995 winter season and that of the summer of 1995.

During the discussion of the plan, his excellency gave instructions to form follow-up committees to carry out the agricultural plan. The party and the governorate management will be represented in these committees, which will have incentives systems based on the tasks and incentives of the committees in charge of marketing agricultural crops. The committees should be instructed in the requirements to increase the area under cultivation and productivity of the donum. Clear objectives should also be defined for these committees, as well as serious follow-up formulas for plan phases and implementation, in addition to enlightening the farmers and peasants about the requirements of this plan through the news media and in the field.

'Izzat Ibrahim Addresses 'Faith' Campaign Ceremony

JN2009201194 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 1600 GMT 20 Sep 94

[Excerpts] Under the patronage of leader mujahid President Saddam Husayn, may God protect him, the Ministry of Education held a large ceremony on the first anniversary of the great national faith campaign designed to teach and comprehend the holy Koran under the slogan: The Holy Koran Should Be Understood in a Precise and Integrated Way. Deputizing for leader Saddam Husayn was 'Izzat Ibrahim, vice chairman of the Revolution Command Council [RCC]. [passage omitted]

'Izzat Ibrahim delivered a speech. He conveyed greetings from President leader mujahid Saddam Husayn and wishes of success for those working in the campaign for achieving this militant faithful action. His speech reads: In the name of President, leader, faithful, and mujahid Saddam Husayn, who is championed by God, and on behalf of his excellency, it gives me great pleasure to sponsor your glorious and blessed ceremony being held to mark the first anniversary of the national campaign of faith designed to teach the holy Koran. I congratulate you on this annual blessed faithful festival whose immortal anniversary comes at a time when the sons of this good and chaste land are expressing in each moment of their life their nation's history and their predecessors' glories in terms of adhering to principles and defending the heritage, honor, and homeland. [passage omitted]

The RCC vice chairman added: The Iraqis are today demonstrating further determination to continue the reconstruction and jihad, thus triumphing, under the leadership of Saddam Husayn, the faithful and genuine Arab hero, over the unfair blockade, exactly as they triumphed recently and extinguished the fire of an eight-year war fomented by the unfair Tehran regime. They triumphed over this regime in the glorious Saddam's al-Qadisiyah. They also defeated the infidel and misled ones as well as the 30-state aggression in the immortal Mother of Battles. Thus, these ones returned home disappointed by God. God is the protector of the believers, whereas the infidels have no protector. [passage omitted]

Receives Shiite Sect's Sultan

JN2109185894 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1500 GMT 21 Sep 94

[Text] Baghdad, 21 Sep (INA)—'Izzat Ibrahim, Revolution Command Council member, has received Dr. Muhammad Burhan-al-Din [name as transliterated], worldwide sultan of the Shiite Bohora sect.

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During the meeting, 'Izzat Ibrahim said that Iraq, leadership and people, is proud of the Bohora sect's support for the Iraqi people.

Dr. Muhammad Burhan-al-Din praised mujahid President Saddam Husayn's special care for the holy shrines and the righteous Imams' tombs throughout Iraq.

He expressed his admiration and appreciation of the Iraqi people's great efforts to reconstruct what the evildoers have destroyed by their 30-state aggression. He said: We beseech Almighty God to end the Iraqi people's suffering from the blockade clamped on them.

Tanks, Armored Cars Attack Kurdish Villages

NC2109175094 (Clandestine) Voice of the People of Kurdistan in Arabic 1600 GMT 21 Sep 94

[All place names as heard]

[Text] In today's edition, KURDISTAN NWAY cites a responsible source as saying that on 18 and 19 September a force of the Iraqi regime supported by tanks and armored cars attacked the Kurdish villages of Garathor and Palaniyan in the areas of Shandinawah and Qarah Shuvi. The invading force demolished the citizens' houses in these villages, which had been rebuilt following the blessed uprising of 1991.

The regime told the inhabitants of Gardashina, Malakagha, and Gardigom that they should leave their villages within three days.

The same source added that the governor of Mosul instructed the security forces to arrest 50 butchers in the district of Makhmur on charges of cooperating with the liberated areas of Kurdistan. Only nine butchers were arrested, however.

Difficulties Facing Kurdistan Viewed

JN1609211594 (Clandestine) Voice of Iraqi Kurdistan in Arabic 1500 GMT 16 Sep 94

["Editorial" from KHABAT newspaper on 16 September 1994: "Race Against Time; Who Will Win the Race"—read by announcer]

[Excerpts] [passage omitted] The Iraqi opposition will soon witness a new boom, especially among the popular opposition in Iraq, as well as new international interest engendered in the Iraqi National Congress, which is now an important and internationally recognized framework. For the first time, a ranking delegation of the congress attended the Security Council's deliberations on Iraq.

Following the clear departure from the policy of late Turkish President Ozal, Turkey is wagering on tightening the grip on the political entity in Iraqi Kurdistan to isolate it, and is openly working to besiege it. Turkey is introducing tight restrictions on the travel of foreigners, journalists, representatives of humanitarian organizations, delegations, and others to the region.

Turkey is probably waiting for the lifting of sanctions and the return of the Iraqi regime to the arena.

However, the Turkish Government is also facing a race with time. The United States and the EC are calling for a peaceful political solution to the Kurdish question in Turkey, and have fixed the end of this year as an ultimatum. By this date, the Turkish Government should have improved its human-rights practices, including its practices among the Kurdish people, and its treatment of cultural and political rights.

As for the political regime in Iraq, which is wagering on an eventual end to international siege, it is facing a counter threat, which is the serious deterioration in the living situation, which has not improved in spite of all its administrative and economic measures, and the confiscation of property of traders and others. [passage omitted]

Finally, the internal situation in Iraqi Kurdistan is also in race against time. The Kurdish people and the patriotic Kurds—parties, groups, and establishments—aspire to win their bet through calming and normalizing the situation, and overcoming the living difficulties and the results of regional siege. They also want to continue with their initiative and enjoy international sympathy until the conditions in Iraq and the region are settled.

As for others—the opponents of the regional experiment—they are wagering on the continuation of tension and chaos in the region, the continued disintegration of its establishment, and the collapse of its experiment.

Hence, we are an important part of this wager. Our will, awareness, and sincerity are important part of the bet. The race is on, so who will win the race against time.

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Rabin Holds Consultations on Palestinian Talks

TA2109164494 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1600 GMT 21 Sep 94

[Text] Consultations have ended at the prime minister's office on continued negotiations with the Palestinians, especially on the issue of elections in the territories. The consultations were coordinated by the prime minister to prepare for the resumption of negotiations next month.

Our political correspondent Shlomo Raz reports that there is a dispute over the type of body to be elected. While the Palestinians wish to set up a legislative council which will in turn elect an executive body, Israel is talking about an executive body only. Another dispute concerns the dates and character of the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] redeployment, namely when the IDF will leave the centers of towns. Attending the consultations in addition to Mr. Rabin were Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres, Ministers Shahal and Sarid, and IDF and police leaders.

Rabin, Peres Said Divided

TA2109193794 Jerusalem New Channel 2 Television Network in Hebrew 1800 GMT 21 Sep 94

[Video report by 'Imanu'el Rosen]

[Text] A dispute erupted today around the issue of elections in the territories and the interim arrangement in the West Bank. In a debate held at the prime minister's bureau, Rabin said a discussion should now be held on elections only, and the discussion about the implementation of autonomy in the West Bank should be put off to another date. Most participants in the debate thought otherwise. Our political correspondent 'Imanu'el Rosen reports.

[Begin Rosen recording] Negotiations are supposed to begin at the end of the month on the implementation of the next stage of the accord with the PLO: the exit of the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] from the centers of towns, elections to the Palestinian council, and extending autonomy to West Bank areas. Nobody doubts that this is the most complex part of the agreement, much more complex than the Gaza and Jericho accords.

The prime minister called for a first discussion in the Defense Ministry today, and featured on the agenda was the need to consolidate Israel's position in the negotiations. The Palestinians have already submitted a consolidated document. The prime minister expressed his opinion that negotiations about elections in the territories should be concluded first and only then, should the more difficult and sensitive points of extending the autonomy be touched upon. Chief of Staff Ehud Baraq sided with the prime minister, mentioning again the difficulties involved in implementing the next stage.

Nevertheless, most participants in the meeting thought otherwise. Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres said there is no choice but to discuss all issues simultaneously, and he also favored handing over additional powers to the Palestinians in the near future. Foreign Ministry Director General Uri Savir and legal adviser Yo'el Singer supported Peres' position. Minister Yosi Sarid too believes that a slow and simultaneous discussion should be held on all issues. In the IDF leadership too, Major General Uri Sagi and Major General 'Uzi Dayan side with Shim'on Peres: a discussion of all issues, with the tendency to move from the easier to the more difficult ones. A decision has not been made yet—the argument has just begun. [end recording]

Peres Comments on Palestinian Elections, Golan

TA2209082894 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0505 GMT 22 Sep 94

[Telephone interview with Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres by Hayim Zissowitz; place not given—live]

[Text] [Zissowitz] Good morning to you, Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres. Does the Oslo agreement contain an Israeli commitment to hold the elections in the territories in early November?

[Peres] No. We should first reach a series of agreements. Elections are not a separate issue. Before elections, there should be an agreement as to what will be elected. The Oslo accords refer to a single body, not two bodies, namely an executive body. The Palestinians indeed have the power to legislate regulations or even laws in the spheres under their responsibility, but reference is to a single body. So, we should first agree about the nature, composition, and powers of this body, and only then can elections be held. Therefore, we, I, suggested to 'Arafat that at the end of this month we will begin informal talks on the elections, since we cannot decide on them without knowing what the goals are, in fact.

[Zissowitz] In other words, can you confirm that the Palestinians' assessment that these elections cannot be held in early November is correct?

[Peres] If miracles happen and we reach agreements within a short while, this will be possible. The date is not the problem here. Look, any negotiations are measured by their success. I remember that the Palestinians and others were indignant about the one-month delay in the implementation of the first Oslo agreement. Well, a month is not a great deal of time in reference to a historic occasion. We are not dragging our feet, nor delaying matters. There are other things too. A great deal depends on the Palestinians: They need to prove their ability to control the territories, since reference here is also to a redeployment by the Army and security forces. We want to be sure that this change will not worsen the situation.

[Zissowitz] According to the press headlines today, there are disagreements between you and the prime minister about these elections. While the prime minister wants to discuss only elections now, you suggest that we enter

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negotiations with the Palestinians also about the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] redeployment and all elements of the interim arrangement.

[Peres] Look, before I read the newspapers I do not know what is happening. I read the paper this morning. Yesterday we started an initial discussion. It is too early to speak of disagreements. Various ideas were raised, and each one of us was thinking out loud, and this includes the prime minister and myself, I presume. One could decide positions and wage battles right away, but this is unnecessary.

[Zissowitz] So, let me ask you: In view of the security situation in the West Bank towns, do you think it is indeed possible at this stage to also move into the phase of redeployment and removing the forces from the towns?

[Peres] There is no simple answer to this since we cannot remove forces without guaranteeing security. We should discuss the alternatives. Among other things, we are carefully following how the Palestinian Authority, the PA [last four words in English], is handling the security issue in the areas where it has responsibility. Many more suggestions will surface before we solve these problems. The issues are quite difficult since on the one hand, we do not want to control the towns at all, but on the other hand, we would like to secure the traffic axes in the towns as there is a large number of Jewish settlers there.

[Zissowitz] What about the negotiations with Syria. First, do you support Minister Shulamit Aloni's plan for towns in the Galilee to absorb the Jewish settlers who will move out of the Golan Heights?

[Peres] No, I do not support this proposal since we cannot put the cart before the horse. Look, first, we have not reached any agreement with Syria. We are in the midst of negotiations, and anybody who speaks of concessions and descent from the Golan not only harms the future of the Golan but also the nature of the negotiations. Negotiations naturally involve a give-and-take element, and it is pointless for Israel to say: Take and we will later discuss what you will give.

[Zissowitz] Yet, despite your answer about not putting the cart before the horse, sooner or later evacuation will indeed take place.

[Peres] Until now, the position of the government and my party, supports a territorial compromise on the Golan Heights. Namely, we are talking about an evacuation on the Golan. This is our position at the beginning of the negotiations. I do not see a need at the moment to go beyond this statement. It is neither necessary nor useful.

[Zissowitz] In other words, there will be an evacuation of settlements in the framework of an agreement with Syria.

[Peres] Why should I prophesy? We are currently discussing a territorial compromise in general terms. When we sit down to negotiations, there will be many points on the agenda, and again, I do not want to predict anything before the time comes, although my opinion is clear. I never concealed my belief that without a territorial change on the Golan there will be no peace.

[Zissowitz] As declared, Israel is prepared for a territorial compromise on the Golan, while the only answer we received from the Syrians for this willingness is posting placards in Damascus streets in support for peace. Is this enough to make us as joyful as we seem to be?

[Peres] Yes, look, the negotiations with Syria have not yet begun. In my opinion, the Syrians are preparing their public opinion for the negotiations, just as we do. At the moment, the two sides are rigidly insisting on their opening positions. The Syrians talk of an overall evacuation while Israel talks of an evacuation or a withdrawal on the Golan. Only when the negotiations themselves start will we know the true parameters. I believe the eventual solution will not adopt the positions of either side. This is both the nature and goal of negotiations.

[Zissowitz] When you hear that 50,000 people came to support the hunger strikers in Gamla, do you doubt that ultimately, when a national referendum is held, it will lack a majority for a withdrawal from the Golan?

[Peres] Look, we should reach a decision. The people should not decide on the Golan but on peace. If I had the choice of whether or not to climb down from the Golan, I would say a clear no, but this is not the problem. Every person in Israel knows deep down that no descent from the Golan, no peace. Now, I hear the right saying: What is wrong with the status quo? Well, the status quo has two things wrong with it. One concerns day-to-day security, namely, the Lebanese front where we have lost 13 IDF [Israel Defense Forces] soldiers since the beginning of this year, and leadership must stop the killing of our soldiers. The second thing wrong with the status quo is Syria's plans—will Syria settle for what it has or will it begin to obtain modern weaponry, both missiles and nonconventional weapons, and establish aggressive coalitions which threaten Israel? Therefore, the issue does not involve the Golan Heights alone. It is much wider and deeper, and people should decide whether we want or do not want peace. All other questions are secondary.

[Zissowitz] I would like to pose to you two additional, short questions. First, Justice Minister Liba'i yesterday informed families who lost their dear ones in terrorist actions that the release of terrorists who shed blood may be possible in the future. Was the justice minister speaking of a concrete plan?

[Peres] Look, this question must be addressed to the justice minister. I do not know what he said precisely, and I would not like to accuse him on the basis of a press report only.

[Zissowitz] Let me rephrase then: Will you oppose the release of those who murdered Jews?

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[Peres] Yes, absolutely.

[Zissowitz] Another question, on the Casablanca conference which will feature a grand and impressive presence of half of the cabinet ministers. Is this true?

[Peres] All ministers connected to economic affairs will be there. Look, there is too much gossip here. This is an economic conference which is unprecedented in the history of the Middle East. Never before has the Israeli-Jewish business world met with the Palestinian-Arab one. Israeli and Arab ministers will meet. When have we ever witnessed that? We proposed then that all economic ministers go and develop relations. I am referring to the finance, agriculture, and industry and trade ministers. They will all have a chance to get to know the largest companies from the United States, Europe, and the Arab world.

[Zissowitz] Still, the Jerusalem mayor says this harms the preparations for and the chances of success of the Jerusalem conference.

[Peres] Can such a conference be held in Jerusalem? Is this a substitute or a competitor? What is he talking about? There is no limit to using almost anything for unfounded, politically motivated talk. Can we bring the Saudi foreign minister to Jerusalem today, for instance?

[Zissowitz] Have you tried?

[Peres] And how! Maybe you or the Jerusalem mayor should try.... The day will come when he too will arrive, but right now, when we are making enormous efforts to topple the walls of the Arab boycott, to promote the Middle East economically, and to emerge from poverty, oppression, bitterness, and fundamentalism—what is he talking about?!

[Zissowitz] Mr. Foreign Minister, thank you very much.

Rabin Freezes Plan for Settlements in Galilee

TA2209101394 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 22 Sep 94 p 17

[Report by Ilana Baum]

[Text] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin has frozen the Jewish Agency's plan to establish 26 new settlements in the Galilee thereby enhancing the Jewish population there. Rabin prefers that the Jewish presence in the Galilee be enhanced through the expansion of existing settlements.

A joint Jewish Agency-Prime Minister's Office team headed by Shim'on Sheves is working on a new plan to expand settlements in the Negev and the Galilee.

Six months ago the Jewish Agency's Development and Settlement Department submitted to Rabin a comprehensive multiyear plan to expand the Jewish population in the Galilee. The highlight of the plan was to build 26 new settlements and to expand existing locations, thus adding 35,000 new residents to the Galilee.

Rabin ordered the plan frozen but decided that the joint team would review each settlement on its own merit and submit a new proposal based on the expansion of existing settlements.

Rabin also turned down the Housing Ministry's request to build three new communal settlements: Giv'at Shimshit in the Bet She'an Valley, Giv'at Ela Bet in the Yizre'el Valley, and Kefar David in the Negev Plateau.

Rabin Demands PNA Hand Over 'Murderers'

TA2109165094 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1600 GMT 21 Sep 94

[Text] Our correspondent Dani Zaqen reports that the prime minister has demanded that the Palestinian [National] Authority [PNA] be required to turn in brothers Rajah and 'Ammar Abu-Sittah, the murderers of Uri Megidish. Uri Megidish was murdered in the Gush Qatif settlement of Gan Or 18 months ago. The Abu-Sittah brothers were enlisted into the Palestinian security forces. Palestinian sources report that they are continuing to be active in this framework in Khan Yunus. The Palestinian police officially deny that the two are in its ranks.

Senior Source on Golan Withdrawal Timeframe

TA2209112694 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1100 GMT 22 Sep 94

[Text] Israel is prepared to begin withdrawing from the Golan but is not prepared to complete the withdrawal by the elections, which will take place in about two years, so that it will be possible to examine how Syria is implementing the agreement, three or four years after the elections. In contrast, President al-Asad is aiming at completing the agreement by election time. Our correspondent Shlomo Raz has learned this from a senior political personage.

According to this personage, President al-Asad is willing to soften his position on the mutual demilitarization issue and agrees that the territory which Israel will demilitarize on its side will be smaller than the territory which Syria will demilitarize. The senior personage believes that if progress is not made in the negotiations between the two countries Syria may escalate the situation in Lebanon, increase its military buildup through the purchase of missiles and chemical weapons, pressure Jordan and the Palestinians to withdraw from their agreements with Israel, and tighten its relations with Iran.

Our political correspondent notes that Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres too believes that the test of the Israeli-Syrian agreement should last beyond the elections due in about two years. He said there is no plan for a meeting between him and his Syrian counterpart, Faruq al-Shar', or for a summit between Prime Minister Rabin and President al-Asad.

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IDF Drafts Plan for Pullout From West Bank Cities

TA2209111894 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 22 Sep 94 p A1

[Report by military correspondent Eytan Rabin]

[Text] The IDF [Israel Defense Forces] has in recent weeks begun holding preliminary discussions about a troop pullout from the center of cities in the West Bank as part of the implementation of the second phase of the Declaration of Principles signed by Israel and the Palestinians.

The following details have been learned about the emerging plan: The IDF will in the first stage pull out of four cities—Ramallah, Qalqilyah, Janin, and Bethlehem. No plan has yet been consolidated about Hebron, owing to the fact that many Jews reside in the city. The issue of Hebron will be discussed in a separate debate to be held in Prime Minister and Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin's office.

According to the emerging plan, a timetable for a pullout will be drawn for each city. The troops will then proceed to assume control of traffic arteries in the West Bank. For example, the main road to Ramallah will be controlled by the IDF. Similar to the situation in Jericho, the Palestinians will be in charge of Ramallah, while the IDF will control the city's environs.

A road bypassing Ramallah will be built on which only settlers and IDF troops will be allowed to drive. A senior military source said that Palestinians will not be allowed to drive on it.

Israelis and Palestinians will conduct joint patrols. Similar to the arrangement enforced in the Gaza Strip, the patrols will be conducted by Border Police and Palestinian police units. As a result of the conclusions drawn from the first phase, the two sides will not be simultaneously in control of junctions.

According to the plan, police stations will be built in the vicinity of settlements along traffic arteries in the West Bank, and Border Police and IDF troops stationed near the settlements will be reinforced. Palestinians will not be allowed near the settlements, and will only be allowed to drive on joint Israeli-Palestinian roads. Settlers will drive only on bypass roads, thus avoiding any contact between them and the Palestinians.

Chief of Staff Ehud Baraq was scheduled to hold a preliminary debate about the IDF's deployment in the West Bank but the session was postponed. Military sources said a full and complete plan for a pullout should be drawn up, and that the cost of the IDF's redeployment in the West Bank will greatly exceed that of the redeployment in the Gaza Strip. According to them, the pullout in the West Bank will entail the dismantling of IDF headquarters, but will differ from the pullout in the Gaza Strip in that it is impossible to erect a fence around the West Bank and the IDF will have to deploy on the Green Line.

Likud's Netanyahu, Jordan's Prince Hasan Meet in London

TA2109175294 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1605 GMT 21 Sep 94

[Text] Jordan's Crown Prince Hasan says that 1994 will be a jumping-off point for the peace process. Prince Hasan spoke with Israeli and Jordanian journalists at the end of a two-hour meeting with Likud leader Binyamin Netanyahu at the house of the Jordanian ambassador in London. Our correspondent Gil Sadan reports from London:

[Sadan] This was a courtesy meeting more than anything else. The two sides emphasized that the meeting was not for negotiations, nor is there a substitute to negotiations between governments. The meeting was important for both sides. The Jordanians wanted to thank the Likud for its support of the Washington Declaration while the Likud wanted to stress the party's involvement in peace, both past and future, according to Netanyahu. Initially, the Jordanians kept a low profile on the meeting and they also wanted to keep it secret until after it had taken place. Still, about 30 minutes after the meeting, the two went out to waiting journalists and the prince did talk. The key comment by Hasan was a repeated emphasis that the year 1994 is a jumping-off point for the peace process.

[Begin recording] [Hasan, in English] Well, I have maintained that 1994 is a threshold year for peace making in the Middle East and I will stick to that statement.

[Sadan] That means two months from now.

[Hasan] Well, I'd leave it to you to speculate. [end recording]

[Sadan] To my question as to whether a peace agreement with Jordan is expected within two months, Prince Hasan told me this was my speculation.

Incidentally, I asked Netanyahu whether the sensitive issue of Jerusalem came up during the talks. Netanyahu said that they discussed several issues on which they found understanding, but he refused to elaborate. Netanyahu said he has maintained contacts with various Arab world elements for some time now.

Netanyahu and Prince Hasan met in London about four and a half months ago. It was important to both of them to stress that this dialogue is continuing.

Gazan Attacks Policeman, Captured at Roadblock

TA2109155094 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1500 GMT 21 Sep 94

[Text] There was a terrorist attack at the Erez checkpoint a short while ago: A Gaza resident who had stolen a

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vehicle in Karmi'el tried to run over an Israeli policeman at the roadblock and enter the autonomy. Our correspondent Nisim Qeynan reports that the policeman noticed the Gaza driver who was trying to run him over, fired at the car, wounded the driver, and captured him. The security forces are investigating the circumstances of the incident.

Palestinian Policemen Detained in Jerusalem Area

TA2109185394 Jerusalem Israel Television Channel 1 Network in Hebrew 1800 GMT 21 Sep 94

[Announcer-read report]

[Text] A short while ago a Border Police force detained seven Palestinian policemen who were staying in the Jerusalem area without permits. They were transported for interrogation by the minorities section at Jerusalem police headquarters. Our correspondent Uri Kohen-Aharonov has learned that the seven were detained in a cab in the Shu'fat refugee camp in northern Jerusalem and claimed they were on their way to Gaza.

Groups' Report Claims Government Violating DOP

TA2109144194 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1100 GMT 21 Sep 94

[Text] Gush Shalom and Jisr claim that Israel has over the past year fulfilled no more than half of its commitments in the Declaration of Principles [DOP]. A report issued by these two organizations states that Israel has been grossly violating the DOP by delaying elections in the territories and by continuing to build in the settlements. Our correspondent Golan Yokhpaz reports:

[Begin recording] [Yokhpaz] A special report issued today by activists of Gush Shalom and Jisr, a Palestinian institute for peace-related data, argues that Israel has partially or completely violated about half of the clauses contained in the Oslo agreement. At the same time, the activists rather suspiciously contend that for their part the Palestinians have hardly violated it at all. Ziyad Abu-Zayyad, a leader of Jisr, claims that the report is absolutely objective. Israel is the powerful side in the negotiations, he says, and therein lies the reason for its failure to fulfill the agreement.

[Abu-Zayyad] Israel is the occupying power. Therefore, it is only natural that if the governing side has been dragging its feet regarding the transfer of power and territory it should be held responsible for the delay in the implementation of the agreement.

[Yokhpaz] Both organizations claim that Israel has been violating the Oslo agreement by preventing elections in the territories, preventing the pullout of its troops from the centers of cities, by demolishing Palestinian homes, and building houses in the settlements.

Although cabinet ministers, including Yosi Sarid, claim that the Palestinians have been violating certain clauses in the agreement, Gush Shalom and Jisr think otherwise. Violations of the agreement by the Palestinians are very few and negligible, Uri Avneri, one of the authors of the report stated today. Cabinet ministers do not know what they are talking about, he said.

[Avneri] Yosi Sarid is not telling the truth. When he says that the Palestinians violate the agreement by demanding elections for a legislative council he is not telling the truth, because the agreement does not spell out the nature of the council.

[Yokhpaz] Summing up the news conference held at an East Jerusalem hotel on the occasion of the publication of the report, activists from both organizations believe that if Israel continues to breach the agreement there will never be peace in the Middle East. [end recording]

Government Denies Proposing To Poison Khomeyni

TA2209100194 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 22 Sep 94 p 13

[Report by 'Ada Kohen]

[Excerpt] Earlier this week the Foreign Ministry released a communique denying the allegations made in a new book published by Robert McFarlane, President Reagan's national security adviser, to the effect that David Kimche, a former Foreign Ministry director general, had proposed to the Americans to poison Khomeyni.

The Foreign Ministry communique states that "the Israeli Government never proposed to assassinate Ayatollah Khomeyni. It consequently follows that such a proposal was not raised by David Kimche, the Foreign Ministry's director general at the time." [passage omitted]

Chinese Vice Premier To Visit 'Early October'

TA2209090494 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0800 GMT 22 Sep 94

[Text] The Chinese vice premier [not further identified] will arrive in Israel in early October. This is the first visit by a senior Chinese personage since diplomatic relations were established between Beijing and Jerusalem. The Chinese vice premier will meet with the president of the state, the prime minister, and ministers engaged in economic affairs.

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PLO's Qaddumi, al-Majali Discuss Relations

JN2109180494 Amman Jordan Television Network in Arabic 1600 GMT 21 Sep 94

[Excerpts] Prime Minister Dr. 'Abd-al-Salam al-Majali received in his office today Faruq Qaddumi, head of the PLO Political Department. [passage omitted]

Following the meeting, Qaddumi spoke to our political affairs correspondent Kassab Samawi:

[Begin recording] [Qaddumi] Basically, the topics discussed were bilateral relations, which must be strengthened. I stressed to the prime minister that a man cannot shed his own skin. Despite all these obstacles, we are determined to strengthen these relations. During the Economic Council meeting in Egypt under brother Abu-'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat], we discussed these issues in detail. We intend to draw up a program to strengthen these relations among our brothers, among the children of the same people on both banks [the West Bank and Jordan] and in Gaza. This is the basic issue. Then comes the issue of the settlement and the obstacles we are facing. These obstacles must be overcome first by bilateral coordination and then by Arab coordination.

God be praised, we made some decisions in the Economic Council to establish the Palestinian Monetary Authority and the Palestinian Development Bank in order to strengthen the Palestinian and Arab private investments inside the Palestinian areas. We considered ways to absorb money coming from other friendly states.

[Samawi] This brings to mind another question that I would like to ask. There has been a definite ambiguity in Palestinian-Jordanian economic ties. Has this ambiguity been removed; has there been any improvement?

[Qaddumi] The Palestinian-Jordanian economy is one economy. In fact there is no difference between the two. However, there are some complications which cropped up due to the Israeli occupation. The removal of the occupation will restore the unity of this integrated economy. We should not separate this Palestinian economy from the Jordanian economy in any way whatsoever because history and experience prove that these economies are complementary. No one should think for a single moment that they can be separated. Interests are common and the economies are complementary. [end recording]

Embassies Alerted for Falsified Passports

JN2109105594 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 21 Sep 94. p 12

[By JORDAN TIMES staff correspondent Ayman al-Safadi]

[Text] Amman—Diplomatic sources said Tuesday [20 September] that some Western embassies in Amman had taken special measures to verify travel documents after confirming that some Iraqi nationals were using "stolen or falsified" passports to travel to the West.

The sources, speaking on condition of anonymity, said that different kinds of stolen passports are being sold in Amman to Iraqi nationals for prices ranging between $4,000 and $7,000.

The sources also said that there have been some attempts to forge entry visas to some Western nations by some Iraqi nationals who want to immigrate to the West. They added that the Iraqis who tried to use such false visas had aimed at travelling to some Eastern countries with lenient asylum laws.

The sources said the among the stolen passports that Iraqis have been buying in Amman are Venezuelan passports, adding that it is almost certain that the majority of these passports were genuine documents, stolen from their source.

The sources added that photos of the Iraqi nationals who falsified these documents were attached to the stolen "new passports."

But the sources did not rule out possibilities that some of these passports were falsified after having been stolen from tourists or other Venezuelan nationals.

"My embassy detected attempts to get entry visas on fake travel documents," one Western diplomat told the JORDAN TIMES.

Sources said that some travel agents tried to help a number of Iraqi nationals get visas through providing them with false travel tickets that specified the date of departure and return to Amman to meet a condition that some embassies require. They said these tickets were canceled after the visa was granted with the travel agency pocketing a certain fee.

Diplomatic sources confirmed that diplomatic missions of European Union (EU) countries were holding meetings to coordinate their efforts to counter attempts to get visas through false or stolen travel documents.

Amendment to U.S. Grant Signed, Envoy Comments

JN2109215194 Amman Radio Jordan in English 1700 GMT 21 Sep 94

[Text] Jordan and the United States have signed an amendment to a grant agreement. The amendment was signed this morning by Minister of Planning Hisham al-Khatib, U.S. Ambassador to Jordan Wesley Egan, and director of the U.S. Agency for International Development mission in Jordan, William Oliver [first name as heard]. It provides Jordan an additional $1 million for the family health services project. Following the ceremony, Mr. Egan spoke to Radio Jordan:

[Begin recording] The first is a small $1-million addition to our program in family health services, that is designed

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specifically to enhance and to support the government's ability to deliver quality health care to young mothers and to young children and to continue the steady reduction in infant mortality, to assist with equipment and supplies, and to assist the government in the training of additional physicians, nurses and hospital staff, all of which are involved intimately in the family health services project. The second agreement we signed this morning was part of a cultural and environmental resource management program. This has particular focus on our support to the government's efforts to preserve and to make accessible and to protect the principal archaeological sites in Jordan. The $7.6 million of the agreement that we signed this morning will be focused on those sites in Petra and in Madaba and at the Citadel site here, in Amman. It is a very interesting combination of archaeological resources and environmental protection. It will help provide some of the infrastructure to further elaborate the tourism sector and the tourism potential in Jordan. I think the effort of the two governments—the United States Government and the Government of Jordan—is not only to preserve the sites themselves but to make them accessible to international tourism and to protect them both as unique archaeological sites and as part Jordan's enormously rich cultural heritage. It is a also an area that can become a principal earner of foreign exchange for Jordan, which we all believe we can make a significant contribution to the sustained economic growth and development of this country. [end recording]

King Addresses Israeli Arab Delegation on Peace

JN2109200994 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 1600 GMT 21 Sep 94

[Address by King Husayn to an Israeli Arab delegation at the Royal Hashemite Court on 21 September; recorded]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. Dear brothers: This is a day that I will always remember. I will always remember this meeting with you, my kinsfolk and brothers, here in this place which I hope you will always deem as your own home. I appreciate everything you said in your address, which expresses the feelings of the kinsfolk and brothers. Throughout the long journey, we have always appreciated your steadfastness and your adherence to your land, rights, and roots. We have always hoped to arrive at a situation that would enable me to meet and greet you for what you have offered and given and to express my pride in everyone of you. Please convey my greetings to all the kinsfolk and brothers. I hope that you consider this country as your homeland and the homeland of our kinsfolk, brothers, and beloved ones. We will take all the required measures to make it possible for people to meet their kinsfolk now and in the future.

As for peace—the just, honorable peace whose blessings should be enjoyed by the coming generations—it has always been our objective. We beseech God to help us arrive at the aspired peace whose blessings can be enjoyed by the children of Abraham, may peace be upon him, and which we have been denied for ages.

This is the land of heavenly messages which affected human beings throughout the world. This is the land of prophets and good ones. I hope that what will be realized in this region will help develop a new world of prosperity for everyone. Peoples of the region should live a new era of mutual respect and cooperation for the benefit of everyone. At this stage, the holy places, sacred to all, should be protected, so the aspired peace can be achieved. The will of God made this land of value and sanctity for all followers of the monotheistic religions. This homeland is the homeland of emigrants and supporters, the homeland of the free and honorable ones. They have come to this land from throughout the Arab homeland and beyond it. We are working hard to be an example for others by concentrating on the value and importance of the human being to remove any frustrations and to enable him and the next generations to play their role fully in an atmosphere of freedom, democracy, shura [consultation], respect for human rights, political pluralism, cooperation, and brotherhood.

We beseech God to help us play our part and to offer the coming generations chances that we have been denied for ages and throughout this long journey. Our people deserve the best. God willing, their rights will be maintained, their heads will remain high, and they will continue to do their best now and in the future.

We share the same history. Our relations with the Bani-Ma'ruf tribe [the Druze community] are those of one family. This was the case during the Great Arab Revolt, and continue to be so. I have talked about memories and parts of this history, some of which I personally remember and have lived. God willing, in this country, we are always brothers, one family, one hand, and one heart. All the hopes that you have voiced and stressed are our hopes too. We will do our best to perform our duty toward our kinsfolk, brothers, and beloved ones.

The peace march is serious and of noble objectives. As a result of the efforts being exerted, we hope to arrive at successful results soon and at a solution to all problems and pending issues in order to realize a durable peace that can be maintained and enjoyed by the coming generations. I believe that we are on the right path. God willing, the results will be good. Naturally, we hope that the peace will be just and comprehensive in this region so everyone will be able to lead the descent life they deserve.

Please convey all our love, appreciation, and pride to all relatives and beloved ones. Please accept my thanks, appreciation, and gratitude for every member of your esteemed delegation. You are welcome. This is your home. You are among your kinsfolk and brothers in Jordan. Let us hope for many future meetings, God willing. It is God who grants success. May God's peace and blessings be with you. [applause]

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Hasan Meets Likud's Netanyahu in London

JN2109193594 Amman Jordan Television Network in Arabic 1600 GMT 21 Sep 94

[Report by Hani al-Badri]

[Text] His Highness Crown Prince Hasan received at the Jordanian Embassy in London today Binyamin Netanyahu, leader of the opposition Israeli Likud Party. His highness held a meeting with Mr. Netanyahu. They exchanged views on a number of issues of interest to the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan, as well as the Jordanian viewpoint regarding current developments. His highness was also briefed by Mr. Netanyahu on the Likud's position in view of its full support for the Washington Declaration between Jordan and Israel.

At the end of the meeting, in response to a question on whether this meeting seeks to explore the Likud's support for the Washington Declaration, his highness told our correspondent in London that he and Mr. Netanyahu exchanged views on a host of issues of interest to both countries since they endeavor to establish a just, comprehensive, and durable peace in the region—a noble objective which serves the interest of the two peoples and all peoples of the region.

[Begin recording] [Unidentified correspondent] Sir, would you mind if I ask a question for Jordan Television in Arabic? [preceding question in English] Your highness the prince, regarding your meeting with the Israeli Likud Party today, the Likud Party is known for a political position that is clearly different from that of the Labor Party toward the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan. But after its support for the Washington agreement for peace between the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan and Israel, it seems that its stand has changed. Does this meeting by your highness reflect a change in the mentality or the ideology of the Likud Party? Have you sensed that, sir?

[Hasan] I believe that as far as the political spectrum in Israel is concerned, it was clear after the Washington Declaration that the Likud and the opposition in Israel support the Israeli Government regarding the concept of a arriving at comprehensive political solution with the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan. Mr. Netanyahu addressed a public message to this effect to Jordan—king and people. In his message, he noted the opposition's readiness to continue support for political efforts. However, we would like to explain here that this discussion and meeting is an expression of our willingness to talk to the political spectrum and political leaders in Israel. However, this discussion does not affect what is currently taking place between the Jordanian Government and the Israeli Government in the bilateral talks, as well with the U.S. Government in the trilateral talks, except as far the general framework and the positive spirit for the joint search for a just and comprehensive political solution are concerned. I would like to once again thank the Likud Party for this explicit support for the concept that Israel, as a state, searches for a just, comprehensive political solution between Jordan and Israel. [end recording]

Official: Exchange of Mail With Israel Soon

JN2009132094 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 20 Sep 94 p 1

[Report by Ayman 'Abd-al-Hafiz]

[Text] Amman—Hashim al-Qudah, secretary general of the Ministry of Communications, has said that the ministry has made the necessary preparations for the exchange of mail services with Israel, and that it is ready to start this exchange soon.

In an exclusive statement to AL-DUSTUR, he said that mail was one of the draft agreements listed on the Jordanian-Isareli agenda. He added that the exchange will start immediately after the two governments approve it.

Senior Awqaf Officials Summoned for Consultations

TA2109180394 Jerusalem Israel Television Channel 1 Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 21 Sep 94

[Announcer-read report]

[Text] Jordanian authorities have summoned to Amman a number of senior awqaf officials in Jerusalem to consult with them over the decision by the Palestinian Authority to spread its control over the awqaf. Our correspondent 'Abd-al-Wahhab Zuhdi reports that this issue has generated tension in Jordanian-Palestinian relations.

Awqaf Official's Stand on Jerusalem Holy Shrines

JN2009211094 Amman Jordan Television Network in Arabic 1800 GMT 20 Sep 94

[Text] Rafiq al-Khatib, director of the al-Aqsa Mosque at the Ministry of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs, has said that the city of Jerusalem is largely an Islamic endowment taken care of by the Ministry of Awqaf and its bodies there.

In an interview with the Jordanian News Agency, he added that the Jordanian Government spent approximately $485 million of its budget on Islamic affairs and related social services, particularly those pertaining to the al-Aqsa Mosque, from 1952-1992. He went on to say: The care accorded Islamic holy shrines by the Hashemites has been demonstrated throughout their honorable history. It was embodied at the turn of this century by al-Sharif al-Husayn Bin-'Ali, leader of the Great Arab Revolt, when he extended moral support and made financial donations toward that end, and also when he, may his soul rest in peace, showed an eagerness to be buried near the Jerusalem holy shrine.

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Al-Khatib said: His Majesty King Husayn continued the efforts when he decided to form a special committee that was charged with maintaining, rehabilitating, and repairing the holy Jerusalem shrine. The last of the noble gestures made by His Majesty King Husayn took the form of gold plating the holy Dome of the Rock and its lobbies, and installing fire detection and fire fighting systems at his own expense. These repairs cost some $10 million.

Journalists Questioned Over Violations of Press Law

JN2109100694 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 21 Sep p 12

[By a JORDAN TIMES staff reporter]

[Text] Amman—One journalists was released Tuesday [20 September] after being held for two days by the security authorities for publishing a report that was deemed harmful to the Armed Forces and two others were questioned on articles that were seen to violate the Press and Publications Law, informed sources said Tuesday.

They said Nidal Mansur, chief editor of the weekly AL-BILAD, was released from custody after two days of questioning over an article that appeared in AL-BILAD six weeks ago alleging that several members of Jordan's U.N. force in Croatia, former Yugoslavia, were afflicted with AIDS.

Jordan has more than 3,000 security personnel in the U.N. peace force in former Yugoslavia, most of them in Croatia.

It was not immediately known whether Mr. Mansur, who used to work with the weekly tabloid SHIHAN before joining AL-BILAD, would face charges. But the sources said the weekly would published a story next week saying that the article was not intended to harm the Armed Forces.

A provision in the Press and Publication Law, which took effect in May 1993, bans publication of any report that harms the image of the Armed Forces.

According to sources quoted by the Associated Press, Mr. Mansur was released on condition that the weekly "retracted an Aug. 10 article in which it said that 12 of the 3,000 Jordanian troops serving with the U.N. peace keeping force in Croatia could have been infected with AIDS."

No official comment was available on the case. Reuter reported that Mr. Mansur was released after Prime Minister 'Abd al-Salam al-Majali intervened.

Shortly before the journalist was freed, about 20 journalists staged a protest outside the Prime Ministry demanding his release.

Mr. Mansur, 33, is facing trial for publishing another article two months ago related to an illegal group that opposes normalisation of Jordan's relations with Israel. The journalist is scheduled to appear before the prosecutor on Thursday.

Reports related to the same illegal group also have another journalists, Fahd Rimawi of AL-MAJD, facing charges of violating the Press and Publication Law.

Mr. al-Rimawi, a former columnist with the mass-circulation AL- RA'Y Arabic daily, was also called in for questioning by prosecutors this week, sources said. In addition to two counts of charges stemming from the two reports, Mr. al-Rimawi also faces three other charges of violating the law since July 27.

Another journalists, Hilmi al-Asmar of AL-SABIL, the mouthpiece of the opposition Islamic Action Front, was also question this week on possible charges of violating the law. No details were available on the charges against him.

The questioning of the three journalists were the latest in a series of legal action taken by the Press and Publications Department of the Ministry of Information to enforce the law.

In a statement faxed to the JORDAN TIMES, eight political parties and a committee to fight normalization with Israel criticized the government for "stifling" the press.

It said the nine groups met to review the case of Mr. Mansur, Mr. al-Rimawi and Mr. al-Asmar as well as "similar cases related to journalists." "The general secretaries of the parties (and the committee) are of the opinion that stifling of voices and banning of opposition criticism aim at facilitating the implementation of the government policy pertaining to implementing the agreement with the Zionist enemy and the policies of the international Monetary Fund (IMF)," the statement said.

"The continuation of such a policy would lead to aborting the democratization process and the imposition of martial law," it said, demanding that "the government halt arbitrary measures and stop dealing with all cases related to journalism as criminal cases."

"The government should avoid attempts to interpret the Press and Publications Law in a manner that serves its policies," it said, adding that the parties decided to submit a memorandum to the government.

The parties signing the statement were:

—The Jordan Arab Socialist Ba'th Party; the Islamic Action Front; the National Action Front; the Jordan Democratic Socialist Party; the Jordan Democratic People's Party; the Jordanian People's Democratic Union Party; the Jordan Communist Party; the Jordan Arab Democratic Party; and the Popular committee to Fight Normalisation and Surrender.

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Correspondent on 'Likely' Cabinet Reshuffle

JN2109094894 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 20 Sep 94 p 23

[Report by local affairs correspondent]

[Excerpts] Speculation has been rife about Dr. 'Abd-al-Salam al-Majali's government following a visit last Saturday [17 September] by His Majesty King Husayn to the Prime Ministry, where the king chaired part of a cabinet session. According to one report, the government sensed his majesty's dissatisfaction with the government's performance. An Arabic news agency went so far as to report that al-Majali tendered his government's resignation immediately after that session. According to other available information, al-Majali's government will only be reshuffled, affecting at least 10 portfolios.

According to informed sources, the king's call at the Prime Ministry was meant as a new show of confidence in the prime minister himself. His majesty's frank and clear remarks highlighted weaknesses in the performance of some ministries. His majesty pointed out that Jordan had ahead of it many important issues to address and that we want our people to feel reassured about decisions and projects. His majesty said he wanted the government to take whatever measures are required to ensure peace of mind for every citizen. The government, his majesty said, must monitor any discriminatory practices that are at odds with Jordanian ideals.

According to certain information, a combination of personal temperament and lack of coordination between cabinet members is one of the most important factors hampering the smooth progress of work. The dismissal of certain secretaries general by their ministers and recent shakeups among top officials are indicative of a tug of war between the two sides, which has been to the detriment of public interest and the performance of second-line officials.

Those who think a cabinet reshuffle is likely say that parliamentary deputies may be incorporated into the government as ministers, especially given that Jordan has had relatively smooth sailing through the direct negotiations stage with Israel, that it signed an agreement ending the state of war, and that the government has a greater need for technocrats than for political support. [passage omitted]

Observers point out that the cabinet shakeup is likely to happen within the next two weeks. The postponement of the opening of the next ordinary session of the Parliament from 1 to 22 October and al-Majali's unprecedented move of delivering the speech from the throne on behalf of his majesty the king were meant to give al-Majali time to carry out the reshuffle.

Population, Housing Census Postponed One Year

JN2009120794 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic 20 Sep 94 p 1

[Report by Dina Zurba]

[Text] Amman—AL-RA'Y has learned that a decision was made to postpone the general census on population and housing, which was due to be conducted in November, until next year. The date has not yet been fixed.

Well-informed sources told AL-RA'Y that the new date to conduct this census will be fixed during a meeting to be held soon by the census ministerial committee.

The sources said that the main reason for postponing the census is because the idea of a census, in public opinion, is linked to the peace process. This baseless idea created some fears at the General Statistics Department that it would negatively affect the type of information given by the citizens.

In October 1993, the cabinet decided to delegate the General Statistics Department to conduct the 1994 population and housing census. It is noteworthy that the last census conducted in Jordan was in 1979.

It should also be pointed out that the second article of the General Statistics Law stipulates that the General Statistics Department conduct a general census in the fields of population, housing, agriculture, and industry at least once every 10 years.

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Fijian Peace Keepers Wounded in Bomb Blast

NC2209090994 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 0800 GMT 22 Sep 94

[Text] Timor Goksel, official spokesman of the UN Interim Force in Lebanon [UNIFIL], has stated that three soldiers from the Fijian contingent, including an officer, were injured at 0130 today when an explosive charge went off as the patrol was travelling along the al-Minyah-al-Qulaylah road, which is used only by UNIFIL. According to security sources, the charge was set to detonate by remote control. UNIFIL forces have suffered 200 casualties since their arrival in Lebanon in 1978.

Commentary Views Syrian-Israeli Peace Talks

NC2209083694 Ba'labakk Voice of the Oppressed in Arabic 0545 GMT 22 Sep 94

[From the "Spotlight on the News" program: "Negotiations in the Region, Where Are They Heading?"]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. Informed political sources believe that Zionist enemy statements about achievements or positive expectations from the Syrian-Israeli negotiations are nothing but messages to the Zionist public, meant to attract the attention of the Israeli voter, at whom both the Labor Party and the Likud Bloc are directing intensive political campaigns. The Zionist public is obsessed by the need for peace with Syria, as long as the price is not great. The price is full withdrawal from the Golan and the dissolution of the settlements there.

Labor Party officials are going all out to show that they are working seriously for an imminent and inexpensive peace in an attempt to win public sympathy. The Likud Bloc, in an attempt to stir up the public against the Labor Party, is trying to maintain that the Labor Party is planning to leave the entire Golan shortly. In both cases the Israeli voter is being targeted pending next year's election battle, which, apparently, has already started.

When Shim'on Peres described Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad's speech as a peace declaration, he was trying to suggest that the hour of relief had finally come. But the Zionists found nothing new in al-Asad's speech, which reiterated Syria's constant principles regarding a just and comprehensive peace. Again al-Asad threw the ball into the court of the Zionists, who have yet to announce their readiness for a full withdrawal from the Golan and south Lebanon.

In his speech, al-Asad criticized separate settlements, which means that Damascus will not be dragged into a separate deal, as happened with 'Arafat and Jordan. 'Ezer Weisman's statements while touring the occupied strip [of south Lebanon] were noteworthy. He said al-Asad has not won the confidence of the Israeli people, because he did nothing similar to that done by al-Sadat, 'Arafat, and King Husayn. This clearly shows that the Israeli leaders seek to [word indistinct] Syria to use it in election campaigns at the expense of the negotiations, which will apparently drag on for rather long.

The sources believe the gift the enemy leaders want al-Asad to present to them is something like a direct meeting between al-Asad and Rabin, upgrading the level of the direct talks, or approving a secret channel for negotiations. Syria strongly rejects all this: Al-Asad will not visit Jerusalem before it is liberated; a meeting between al-Asad and Rabin is a formality that cannot achieve a settlement. And Syria refuses to hold secret talks, because it has nothing to say other than what it says in public. Damascus refuses to present a free gift to the Labor Party that may help it in the elections. Damascus is not concerned who wins the general elections; both rivals seek the interests of the Zionist entity and strongly resist the principle of returning Arab rights.

Informed political sources also refer to Minister Faruq al-Shar's statement in Cairo in which he stressed that Syria wants an Israeli withdrawal within a few months, not years, because there is no logical reason for a withdrawal over years. This asserts Syria's rejection of a phased withdrawal, with one phase carried out before the elections and another—perhaps a long time—after them. There is no guarantee that if Damascus accepts a phased withdrawal it will not fall prey to blackmail. Al-Shar' said: Either we see a full withdrawal before the Israeli elections or we will await the results of the elections; we will act according to the situation.

President Attends Launch of Beirut Project

NC2109165594 Paris AFP in English 1206 GMT 21 Sep 94

[Report by Hala Boncompagni]

[Text] Beirut, Sept 21 (AFP)—Lebanese President Ilyas al-Hirawi on Wednesday [21 September] laid the foundation stone to a mammoth project to rebuild the war-shattered city center of Beirut that has drawn heavy fire from critics.

Al-Hirawi, flanked by the project's driving force Prime Minister Rafiq al-Hariri, criticised the opponents and said it was time they came to terms with the reality that the old Beirut could never return.

"The hour of awakening has come. He who has only tears for what has been destroyed is exactly like he who has destroyed," said al-Hirawi, referring to the devastation caused by Lebanon's 1975-90 war.

Al-Hariri urged the Lebanese to help transform their capital into a "a pearl of cities" in the region.

He recalled that the ancient city had been destroyed six times by wars, earthquakes and floods but it "always emerged from the ashes with new dreams, and arose from its destruction to reconstruction."

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The project is run by Solidere, a private company created under a government decree three years ago allowing it to expropriate 120,000 property owners in the city center in exchange for shares.

The decision triggered a storm of protest from property owners who accused Solidere of highway robbery, while architects, intellectuals and politicians charged it was stripping Beirut of its character.

Most of the criticism targeted the multi-millionaire prime minister, the inspiration behind the 25-year project and who is said to own the largest slice of Solidere shares worth some $180 million.

A Lebanese firm has won the contract to build roads, bridges, sewer systems, underground parking lots and provide the city center with electricity for a total cost of $63 million.

But the final cost of rebuilding the city center's infrastructure will run into $475 million, according to Solidere.

It will cover an area of 1.8 million square meters (19.4 million feet), including 600,000 square meters (6.46 million square feet) on the Normandy landfill—a garbage dump which will be worth its weight in gold once its is built up.

Sociologist Nabil Bayhum said Solidere was transforming Beirut from an Ottoman city full of history into an artificial new town, like those built in the deserts of the Gulf.

It would be characterised by a "central authority controlling and redistributing wealth and, in the process, reorganising and weakening civil society," he said.

LEBANON REPORT, an English-language monthly newsletter, outlined the conflict between Solidere and opponents of the project under a banner headline: "No Soliderity Downtown."

Faced with mounting criticism, the authorities reportedly modified twice the decree creating Solidere while the master plan which initially promised a Manhattan-style city was shelved and a new one designed.

The current plan preserves the ancient souks and creates tree-lined promenades, hotels, marinas, housing areas and business centers as well as a large avenue running across the city center to the Mediterranean sea.

According to Nasr Sham'ah, chairman of Solidere, the project is aimed at revitalizing the Lebanese economy and restoring Beirut's traditional status as a financial capital in the Middle East.

"The reconstruction work will mean thousands of jobs for the Lebanese. The start of the work will restore confidence in Lebanon, it will mean the return of foreign money," he said. But detractors of the project, like Marie, a housewife and property owner in the city center who refused to attend Wednesday's ceremony, said "all this is too soon."

"What we need is electricity 24 hours a day, phones that work, an end to garbage pile-ups and a solution to the traffic on the roads."

To stir up public enthusiasm for the ambitious project, Lebanese diva Fayruz gave a concert in the downtown ruins on Saturday attended by 40,000 people.

Shiite Leader: 'Real Peace' With Israel Impossible

MM2109121294 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 20 Sep 94 p 2

[Interview with Shaykh Muhammad Mahdi Shams-al-Din, chairman of the Higher Islamic Shiite Council in Lebanon, by Bisharah Shirbil in London "yesterday"]

[Excerpts] [Shirbil] There are reports of the possibility of agreements being signed at the end of the year on the Syrian-Israeli and Lebanese-Israeli tracks. How do you view that peace and Lebanon's role under it?

[Shams-al-Din] We do not expect any agreements this year. If anything is going to happen, it will be next year, that is 1995. We cannot call what is being negotiated peace. Because in our view there are no correct foundations for a real peace between the Arabs and Israel. Because the main element in any peace between two people or two quarters is justice and both parties' satisfaction. There is no justice in what is happening. It is absolute injustice. The Arab nation and Muslims are dissatisfied with this injustice, and they are not surrendering. What is happening is the result of the inequity in the balance of power due to blatant international bias toward the Israelis and the interests of world Zionism. [passage omitted]

[Shirbil] If the others normalize [relations with Israel], will not Lebanon be left on its own?

[Shams-al-Din] Lebanon will not be alone. The Lebanese state is like the other Arab states, and the Lebanese people are like the other Arab peoples.

[Shirbil] Do you fear the possibility of Lebanon's witnessing fundamentalist violence against peace or normalization?

[Shams-al-Din] I have reservations about the word fundamentalist, and I hope you will not use it. The Western press uses it tendentiously, and you are repeating that. There is no one called fundamentalist Muslims or non-fundamentalist Muslims. There are Muslims affiliated to a movement and Muslims not affiliated to a movement. If fundamentalism means compliance with the rules, then all Muslims are fundamentalists.

[Shirbil] Let us say the extremists.

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[Shams-al-Din] The word extremists is a Western concept. Violence is exercised by both extremists and the oppressed. It is sometimes exercised justifiably and at other times unjustifiably. We cannot condemn all violence. Some forms of violence are to be condemned. Unnecessary violence against the innocent is to be condemned. Violence against an aggressor is legitimate. For example, the resistance against the Israelis is not terrorism. It is legitimate violence.

As for the question about fighting normalization, I say that the ball is now in the court of the Israelis and their supporters. Will a full, unconditional Israeli withdrawal be achieved? If it is achieved, I have declared that the resistance will be halted. I mean the resistance resulting from the Israeli occupation of Lebanese territory, because the cause, that is the occupation, will have been eliminated. I said earlier that what the Israelis want and are negotiating is not peace. In the event of a conditional Israeli withdrawal impairing Lebanon's sovereignty and independence, the resistance will continue against the occupation and its vestiges.

As for violence against normalization, we are fighting normalization and believe that there is no link between peace and normalization. There could be a state of no war, no peace between me and any other quarter, in the sense that military actions are suspended. We will fight normalization. Certainly we prefer nonviolent means and techniques. We are working to form a tendency and organized bodies within society to fight normalization. We do not propose violence as a means to fight normalization. But violence will be used to fight occupation. [passage omitted]

Joint Security Operation With Syria Reported

JN2109183594 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1715 GMT 21 Sep 94

[Text] Beirut—Lebanese security forces, supported by the Syrian Arab forces operating in Lebanon, today arrested seven people on charges of trading in weapons and distributing forged dollars.

Lebanese security sources said a joint Lebanese-Syrian force stormed the al-Sawad suburb in Ba'lbakk and confiscated scores of machine guns, hand grenades, and telecommunication equipment.

The seven people arrested are wanted on charges of murder, counterfeiting of currencies, and trading in weapons.

Israelis Shell Villages, 'Resistance' Attacks Posts

NC2109194794 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1915 GMT 21 Sep 94

[Text] Kafr Tibnit, al-Nabatiyah al-Fawqa, the deserted Lebanese Army barracks in al-Nabatiyah, and Kafr Rumman's eastern hills came under Israeli artillery fire at 2115 tonight. The bombardment from Israeli emplacements, using 120- and 82-mm guns, was accompanied by machine-gun fire against these villages.

Lebanese Resistance fighters launched two rocket and machine-gun attacks on positions located on the 'Ali al-Tahir and al-Dabshah hills tonight. No other details are known.

Artillery Fire Exchanged

NC2109122294 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1030 GMT 21 Sep 94

[Text] The outskirts of al-Mansuri, al-Hinniyah, and al-'Izziyah villages and the outskirts of al-Qulaylah township came under Israeli artillery shelling from Tayr Harfa at 1150 today. The shelling caused only material damages.

The resistance men retaliated for the Israeli shelling that targeted their positions in Yatar this morning by shelling the Israeli positions that are used by the Israeli helicopters near Ramyah inside the occupied strip.

Clash With SLA Reported

NC2109170894 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1530 GMT 21 Sep 94

[Text] In the south, the occupation forces artillery stationed in al-Zaffatah and Sujud bombarded Jabal al-Rafi' and al-Wadi al-Akhdar in Iqlim al-Tuffah with 82- and 120-mm shells this afternoon. The shelling was accompanied by heavy machine-gun fire that reached the Sujud Woods, al-Rayhan, Jarju', and 'Arab Salim. Two Israeli shells landed on the outskirts of the besieged village of Arnun.

Security sources in the south report that resistance men clashed with a Lahd militia [South Lebanese Army—SLA] patrol using machine guns and rockets when it passed on the Sujud-al-Rayhan Road this afternoon.

Israelis Shell Southern Villages

NC2009165394 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1530 GMT 20 Sep 94

[Text] Since 1800 the occupation forces have been bombarding the outskirts of Jabal al-Butm and Zibqin from their positions in Tayr Harfa and Balat using 155- and 120-mm artillery pieces.

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Comments to Ross Said Consistent With Stands

JN2209065394 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 0510 GMT 22 Sep 94

[Text] Following the departure of Dennis Ross, U.S. coordinator for the Middle East peace process, from Damascus for Israel after an approximately six-hour meeting with Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad, informed Syrian sources told our radio that Damascus communicated to Ross concepts and ideas that do not depart from its known constants.

Position Reiterated After Visit

JN2109133894 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1130 GMT 21 Sep 94

[Station commentary]

[Text] Dear listeners: Dennis Ross, U.S. general coordinator for the Middle East peace process, conveyed a message to President Hafiz al-Asad from U.S. President Bill Clinton at the outset of his Middle East tour, which is aimed to advance the peace process and extricate it from the stalemate it has reached.

The message reiterated the U.S. commitment to the Middle East peace process and to a just and comprehensive peace in the region.

Following his talks with President Hafiz al-Asad, Ross emphasized that the United States will continue its efforts to advance the peace process. He added: I held a good meeting with President Hafiz al-Asad, and we had an opportunity to discuss issues in detail and in a lengthy way. We will proceed on this path, and we felt that the parties are serious, and we will continue the work to achieve results.

While Syria welcomes the U.S. efforts to realize a just and comprehensive peace in the region, it reiterates its commitment to the constants, bases, and principles of the peace process, and makes it clear that its eagerness to realize peace is based on its eagerness to restore its occupied land and usurped rights. This position is manifested in the formula of full withdrawal in return for comprehensive peace.

Hence, Syria has nothing to hide. Its position is clear, and its policy does not accept bargaining or maneuvers. The whole world is aware of the soundness of the Syrian position and its correct policy based on the will of the international legitimacy, right, and justice, and on rejecting partial solutions, separate deals, and phased settlements.

Syria is fully aware that the peace process should not be dealt with without its basic principles, and that other issues, which have nothing to do with the peace process, should not be pushed into this process, because such attempts will further complicate the situation in the region and derail the peace process from its bases and principles.

Reaching a just and comprehensive peace based on the principle of land for peace and ending the Israeli occupation of the Golan and south Lebanon is the objective of the Syrian policy in the negotiations. This means that the pillars and objectives on which the peace process was launched in Madrid conference nearly three years ago should be respected.

Hence, Syria adheres to the need for full withdrawal from the Golan and south Lebanon, and insists on real and accurate implementation of Resolutions 242, 338, and 425. It has become clear to the world that Syria will not relinquish a right or an inch of land. Syria's commitment to the bases of peace has been one of the main factors allowing the continuation of the peace process. This commitment will also be a basic and important factor in ridding the peace process of the current stalemate.

It has become clear for all—based on the positive, honest, and constructive handling by Syria of the pillars of peace—that the one who refuses withdrawal is the party that does not want peace. Therefore, the ball is still in the Israeli court. In order to emphasize their seriousness and objective handling of the requirements of peace, the Israeli rulers should fully commit themselves to what Syria has committed itself—implementing the resolutions of international legitimacy and translating the U.S. initiative based on the land-for-peace principle into substantial measures on the ground—because peace is not mere talk, but real practices and constructive efforts that stem primarily from ending the Israeli occupation, dismantling the settlements, and restoring rights, with the aim of reaching a just and comprehensive peace that ends the state of war and guarantees security and stability for the region and its peoples.

Media Demands Israeli Withdrawal From Golan

Dailies Call For 'Full Withdrawal'

JN2209090294 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0445 GMT 22 Sep 94

[From the press review]

[Text] The newspaper TISHRIN discusses the Syrian positions on the peace process. It says: Various effective parties in the international community have expressed their conviction that Syria has sincere peace inclinations and that it definitely seeks a just and comprehensive peace in the Middle East. The international community has also been convinced that peace cannot be established without effective Syrian participation.

TISHRIN adds: Naturally, peace with Syria requires full Israeli withdrawal from the Golan and southern Lebanon. The paper says that the message which U.S. President Clinton sent to leader al-Asad through envoy Dennis Ross, which emphasized Washington's commitment to working for a just and comprehensive peace, has acknowledged Syria's importance and basic role. The

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message also acknowledged the need to achieve a decisive breakthrough on the Syrian and Lebanese tracks, especially since both fraternal countries—Syria and Lebanon—adhere to a comprehensive solution and categorically reject partial and separate settlements.

Concluding, the paper says: Syria cares for the nation's rights and for regaining the territories. It also firmly believes that peace and justice cannot be separated. Peace cannot be discussed, regardless of any agreements signed, if the Arabs do not regain their rights and territories.

The newspaper AL-THAWRAH discusses the U.S. role in the regional peace process. It says that the U.S. role should be effective and decisive in drawing the future features of both the peace process and the Middle East stability in accordance with the bases set by Security Council Resolutions 242, 338, and 425 and the land-for-peace formula.

AL-THAWRAH adds: Stemming from these principles, it is natural for the United States to focus its efforts on convincing the Israeli Government of the need to abide by the international resolutions and to cease interpreting them in a distorted and wrong way. The United States, which committed itself to achieving a just and comprehensive solution on all fronts of the [Arab-Israeli] conflict, should also increase its efforts to convince Israel that phased steps and partial withdrawals from the Golan, which Yitzhaq Rabin talks about, are not an acceptable way for Syria to achieve peace, nor are they the right way to achieve a just and comprehensive solution.

The paper adds: Syria will only accept full withdrawal from the Golan and southern Lebanon. It insists on considering such a withdrawal as the only access to the age of peace.

'Partial' Withdrawal Rejected

JN1909172794 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1145 GMT 19 Sep 94

[Station commentary]

[Text] Gentlemen: The debate, proposals, and ideas we are currently witnessing on the Israeli political scene regarding withdrawal from the Golan give rise to amazement and astonishment. Israeli officials, be they in or out of office, are speaking of the Golan as if it were an indivisible part of Israeli territory that should not be abandoned. Even when they speak of withdrawal, they believe and reiterate that it will be a withdrawal on the Golan. In exchange for such a partial withdrawal, they are demanding a high price; namely, the opening of borders and normalized relations in all areas.

Undoubtedly what is currently taking place on the Israeli political scene is not the outcome of the democratic traditions the Israelis have relentlessly bragged about, nor is it the outcome of differences of opinion among parties—or even within the same party, as is currently taking place within the ranks of the ruling Labor Party. As a matter of fact, this Israeli debate is the logical outcome of the Israeli reasoning, which maintains that any conquered Arab territory is an indivisible part of the territory of Greater Israel. Consequently, the abandonment of this territory is deemed a concession to the other side that must be reciprocated.

It goes without saying that these proposals and ideas cannot promote the peace process. The opposite is quite true. The peace efforts made thus far, as well as those currently under way, have all sought to achieve peace in this volatile part of the world. Likewise, there can be no peace unless all the parties commit themselves to the terms of reference set for the peace process, the terms endorsed by the international community and the cosponsors of the peace process, and on the basis of which the Madrid conference was held.

Israel's determination to evade the issue of complete withdrawal from the Golan is bound to waste time, and obstruct the peace process. Moreover, the Israeli officials have become fully convinced that regional peace cannot be achieved as long as a single inch of the Golan territory is under occupation, and also as long as a single inch of the territory in southern Lebanon and al-Biqa' al-Gharbi is under Israeli occupation.

This clear and candid Syrian position is supported and backed by the international community, because it is grounded in the relevant UN resolutions and the land-for-peace formula enshrined in the U.S. peace initiative and upheld by the Madrid Conference as the terms of reference for the peace process.

We believe that had Israel complied with the terms of reference of the peace process as much as Syria has been doing, peace would have now become closer to the region than ever before. Since the Israeli leaders have failed to change their positions, the achievement of substantive progress on the Syrian track will remain difficult. Consequently, more time and efforts will be wasted. But, there is still an opportunity to achieve just and comprehensive peace in this region. Nonetheless, the achievement of such peace is, first and foremost, contingent upon Israel's position. Israel must abandon the proposals and ideas that are alien to the substance and principles of peace. Once Israel actually commits itself to meeting the requirements of peace, chief among which is complete withdrawal from the Golan and southern Lebanon, such peace will very soon become a tangible reality.

'Broad' Arab Support Claimed

JN2009074294 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0450 GMT 20 Sep 94

[From the press review]

[Text] Under the headline of "The Ball in Israel's Court," TISHRIN writes: It is no secret that 18 Arab countries have informed the United States that there will

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be no normalization with Israel before Syria and Lebanon reach a peace with Israel that leads to the full withdrawal of the Israeli forces from the Golan and south Lebanon.

The newspaper adds: These countries have not bowed to the pressures placed on them to normalize relations and have urged the United States to pressure Israel to put an end to its policy of occupation and procrastination.

The newspaper refers to the concern expressed by the Gulf Cooperation Council on the lack of progress on the Syrian and Lebanese tracks due to Israel's intransigence and its refusal to implement the bases of Madrid conference and the land-for-peace principle.

This clearly shows that Syria is not isolated, as some claim, and its principled, firm, and clear positions have broad popular and official support.

The newspaper says: The peace desired by Syria is the right, just, and honorable peace that will put an end to the Israeli occupation and return the territories and rights to their owners. If such peace is unavailable, Syria is not in hurry because it is convinced that any agreement that does not call for full withdrawal will be a mere deal, and deals are subject to setbacks and shocks.

The newspaper expresses the belief that as a result of the principled and firm Syrian position, the inseparability of the Syrian and Lebanese tracks has become an indisputable fact of the just and comprehensive solution. The Israeli withdrawal from the Golan should be coupled with a similar withdrawal from south Lebanon. The two countries should restore every inch of their occupied territories.

The newspaper says: Progress in the peace process depends on Israel, and until now its rulers have not said anything that indicates their commitment to full withdrawal from the Golan and south Lebanon or to the implementation of the resolutions of international legitimacy.

IAEA Delegate Says Israel Threatens World Peace

JN2109192194 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1515 GMT 21 Sep 94

[Excerpt] Vienna—A Syrian delegation of the Atomic Energy Authority, headed by Dr. Ibrahim 'Uthman, the authority's director general, is participating in the general assembly meeting of the International Atomic Energy Agency [IAEA], currently convening in Vienna.

In the speech Dr. 'Uthman delivered for the Syrian Arab Republic at the meeting, he urged countries to take the necessary measures to force Israel to join the Nuclear Arms Nonproliferation Treaty and to place its nuclear facilities under IAEA supervision, just as other countries of the region have done.

He expressed Syria's position rejecting attempts to reinstate IAEA economic assistance to Israel because Israel will not commit itself to international resolutions and continues to threaten the security of the region and world peace with the nuclear weapons it is possessing. [passage omitted]

Coordination Commission With Lebanon Issues Minutes

JN2109101794 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1815 GMT 20 Sep 94

[Text] The meetings of the second session of the Syrian-Lebanese Follow-Up and Coordination Commission concluded in Damascus this afternoon under the co-chairmanship of Prime Minister Mahmud al-Zu'bi and Lebanese Prime Minister Rafiq al-Hariri. Attending the closing session were the delegations from both countries and Nasri al-Khuri, secretary general of the Lebanese-Syrian Higher Council.

Prime Minister Mahmud al-Zu'bi delivered a speech at the closing session, in which he expressed happiness over the agreements reached during these meetings. He said the meetings are a new brick in the foundation of the Brotherhood, Cooperation, and Coordination Treaty signed between the two countries.

The prime minister added that these agreements lend major and strong support to bilateral relations, and help make them what they should be, thanks to the directives of Presidents Hafiz al-Asad and Ilyas al-Hirawi.

Al-Zu'bi asserted that the agreements reached during these meetings are in the interest of the two fraternal countries.

Lebanese Prime Minister Rafiq al-Hariri also delivered a speech, in which he expressed his thanks and appreciation for President Hafiz al-Asad and the Syrian Government for the hospitality and warm reception he and his delegation were accorded in Damascus.

Al-Hariri said the talks were permeated with a good spirit of brotherhood and a high sense of responsibility to embody the distinguished ties between the two countries.

Al-Hariri also commended Syrian efforts to restore security and stability to Lebanon. He said: We wish Syria well, just as we wish Lebanon well.

After reviewing the agreements reached by the two delegations, Prime Minister Mahmud al-Zu'bi and Lebanese Prime Minister Rafiq al- Hariri signed the minutes of the meetings of the Syrian-Lebanese Follow-Up and Coordination Commission in its second session in Damascus.

The minutes stated the following:

As an expression of the bonds of brotherhood between the Syrian Arab Republic and the Republic of Lebanon;

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in fulfillment of their common will and in continuation of the march of coordination and cooperation in all fields between the two fraternal states, bolstered by the Brotherhood, Cooperation, and Coordination Treaty signed in Damascus on 22 May 1991; in implementation of the directives of the wise and courageous leadership of President Hafiz al-Asad, president of the Syrian Arab Republic; in embodiment of the sure desire of Lebanon—president, government, chamber of deputies, and people—to enhance the ties of cooperation between the two fraternal states in all spheres; in accordance with what was agreed upon during the first session of the Syrian-Lebanese Follow-Up and Coordination Commission, which met in Beirut from 15-16 September 1993; and in response to an invitation addressed by Engineer Mahmud al-Zu'bi, chairman of the Council of Ministers in the Syrian Arab Republic, His Excellency Rafiq al-Hariri, chairman of the Council of Ministers in the Republic of Lebanon, leading a Lebanese delegation, made an official visit to the Syrian Arab Republic from 19-20 September 1994.

During this visit, President Hafiz al-Asad received the head and members of the Lebanese delegation and the secretary general of the Syrian-Lebanese Higher Council. The president accorded special attention and care to Lebanon, placing relations between the two countries within their comprehensive framework from a common history to a common future. The Lebanese prime minister conveyed to the president greetings from his brother, His Excellency President Ilyas al-Hirawi, and the appreciation of Lebanon—president, government, chamber of deputies, and people—for Syria's positions under President Hafiz al-Asad's leadership that always supports Lebanon.

The Syrian-Lebanese Follow-Up and Coordination Commission held its second session from 19-20 September 1994. The Syrian side was led by Prime Minister Mahmud al-Zu'bi and the Lebanese side by Prime Minister Rafiq al-Hariri. The secretary general of the Lebanese-Syrian Higher Council also attended.

Inspired by President Hafiz al-Asad's remarks, the two sides discussed Lebanon's efforts to rebuild its infrastructure, which forms part of the general Arab advancement. They paused at all points that help develop the joint economic and social resources, solving the difficulties of the citizens and realizing their aims and hopes, and implementing the provisions of the Brotherhood, Cooperation, and Coordination Treaty and the agreements attached to it.

The Syrian side expressed its encouragement of all efforts aimed at enabling Lebanon to regain its full economic and social strength. The Lebanese side reiterated Lebanon's gratitude for sisterly Syria and its appreciation of Syria's efforts to entrench peace and reconciliation on Lebanese territory.

In an atmosphere of cordiality and understanding, the commission reviewed the follow-up report on implementing the resolutions of its first session which was presented to the Lebanese-Syrian Higher Council and voiced its satisfaction with the joint ministerial committees to implement these resolutions. The commission then moved on to discuss issues on its agenda in various domains and reached the following results:

I. Aware of the coordination steps taken in the field of foreign policy between the two sisterly countries, the commission voiced its deep satisfaction with the level of the current coordination, which covers all fields. It stresses the importance of continuing this approach and of efforts to entrench it on a solid basis. The commission also emphasized the adherence of Syria and Lebanon to the concept of a just and comprehensive peace and the principles on whose basis they participated in the Madrid conference—principles that are based on international resolutions, particularly Resolutions 242, 338, and 425.

In this context, the commission reaffirms the importance of the link between the Syrian and Lebanese tracks, that they should not be disconnected, and that the partial and separate solutions cannot serve the peace process or contribute to establishing it on just, durable, and comprehensive basis.

II. In the field of executive agreements and protocols.

A. On the agreements level, the following agreements were adopted and signed:

1. The cultural cooperation agreement.

2. The executive program of the tourist cooperation agreement.

3. Agreement on sharing the Orontes River waters originating in Lebanese territory.

B. On the level of the executive protocols:

The commission adopted the following executive protocols which were signed by the joint ministerial and technical committees in both countries and asked the ministries and establishments concerned to implement them:

1. The industrial cooperation protocol dated 4 December 1993.

2. Protocol on cooperation in the fields of agriculture and animal wealth dated 7 April 1994.

3. Protocol on cooperation in the field of veterinary quarantine and the protection of animal wealth signed on 7 April 1994.

4. Protocol on cooperation in the field of vegetal quarantine and vegetable protection, dated 7 April 1994.

5. Protocol on the exchange of vegetal super phosphate fertilizer with Syrian crude phosphate, dated 22 August 1994.

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6. Protocol on an executive agreement for scientific and technical cooperation in the field of standards and specifications, dated 30 August 1994.

III. In the minutes of the meetings of the Syrian-Lebanese joint committees, it has been decided to adopt the following minutes of meetings signed by concerned parties in both countries. Concerned ministries and parties in both countries shall see to the implementation of the minutes:

1. The minutes of the meeting of the joint health committee signed on 27 October 1993, 6 March 1994, and 27 August 1994.

2. The minutes of the meeting of the joint industrial committee signed on 4 December 1993 by the industry ministers of both countries.

3. The minutes of the meeting of the joint transportation committees signed on 5 December 1993 and 8 April 1994 by the finance and transportation ministers in both countries.

4. The minutes of the meeting of the joint water committee signed on 9 December 1993 by the Syrian irrigation minister and the Lebanese water and electricity minister and the minutes of the water subcommittee's meetings held within the framework of that meeting.

5. The minutes of the meeting of the joint committee for electricity affairs signed on 9 December 1993 by the electricity ministers in both countries and the minutes of the technical subcommittee's meetings held within the framework of that meeting.

6. The minutes of the meetings of the joint agricultural committee dated 9 January 1994, 19 March 1994, 7 April 1994, and 15 September 1994.

7. The minutes of the meeting of the liaison committee dated 26 January 1994 and signed by the Syrian transportation minister and the Lebanese post and telecommunications minister.

8. The minutes of the meeting of the joint security affairs committee signed on 19 March 1994 and 23 April 1994.

9. The minutes of the joint labor committee signed on 26 March 1994 by the labor ministers in both countries.

10. The minutes of the joint tourism committee dated 24 June 1994.

11. The minutes of the ministerial meeting dated 30 August 1994 reconsidering the fees and charges levied on Lebanese cargo, public transportation, and private vehicles.

12. The minutes of the meeting of the joint economic committee dated 1 October 1994 [date as heard].

13. The minutes of the education ministers' meeting signed 4 May 1994.

IV. In the field of economic and social cooperation.

1. The commission has examined at the draft executive instructions plan prepared by the Syrian Ministry of Economy and Foreign Trade regarding:

A. Abolishing the import licenses for materials and commodities of Lebanese origin and substituting them with import approvals.

B. Granting import approvals for materials and commodities of Lebanese origin. Approval will be granted for quantities requested to be imported in accordance with pro forma invoices without making it a condition to hold in advance the foreign currency required to finance the imports, provided that the values of the imported commodities in accordance with those approvals are paid through prior documentary credits through the Syrian Commercial Bank either in full or in installments, depending on the values and quantities of the commodities imported out of the granted approvals.

The commission expressed its satisfaction with the signing of these regulations, and also with the current session's willingness to put them into effect.

2. The commission looked at the directive made by the Joint Syrian-Lebanese Economic Committee concerning the formation of a joint technical committee to gather and tabulate the provisions governing bilateral trade exchange, especially those concerning the economic agreement signed between the two countries on 12 March 1953, the commodity lists attached to the aforementioned agreement, the annexes of the agreement, and the valid amendments incorporated into it both countries to pave the way for the possible expansion and development of these commodity lists to increase the volume of bilateral trade.

The commission looked at the decision issued by the Syrian Ministry of Economy and Foreign Trade naming members of the Syrian side to the aforementioned committee, and it decided to urge the competent agencies in both countries to expedite and facilitate the work of this committee so it may accomplish its mission within a month.

3. The commission looked at the directive made by the Syrian- Lebanese Economic Committee regarding the formation of a Syrian- Lebanese technical committee to consider the implementation of the provisions enshrined in Items A and B of Article 2 of the Economic and Social Cooperation and Coordination Agreement and agree on a consolidated wording for the certificate of origin. This directive has defined the tasks of this committee as follows:

A. To coordinate the domestic burdens of the national commodities exchanged by the two countries.

B. To identify the products and commodities whose domestic burdens are equal, as determined by the joint economic committee pending an examination of the possible lifting of all restrictions governing their exchange.

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C. To determine phased moves toward the creation of consolidated customs tariff walls for the two countries. For instance, in the first phase, the necessary studies will be conducted on the following industries: textile, food, fertilizer, petrochemical, cement, canning and packaging, medicine.

D. To draft an agreed wording for the consolidated certificate of origin in light of the provisions enshrined in the Economic and Social Cooperation and Coordination Agreement signed between the two countries, and agree on the necessary procedures required to ensure that the certificate is valid.

The commission examined the decision made by the Syrian Ministry of Economy and Foreign Trade naming members of the Syrian side to the committee, and it decided to urge the competent agencies in both countries to expedite and facilitate the work of this committee so it may accomplish its tasks within a month with regard to the agreement on a consolidated wording for the certificate of origin.

Periodic reports shall be submitted to the economy ministers in both countries with regard to the committee's other aforementioned tasks.

4. The commission considered the directive made by the Syrian- Lebanese Economic Committee regarding the creation of a Syrian- Lebanese technical committee to examine the issue of international fairs, markets, and joint pavilions. The directive has defined the tasks of this committee as follows:

A. To examine the possible launching of Syrian-Lebanese exhibitions and markets in some Arab and foreign countries, and decide to launch joint markets and exhibitions in one or more of these countries in 1995 as a first step.

B. To launch joint Syrian-Lebanese pavilions at some of the international fairs held in Arab or foreign states in 1995.

C. To agree on the appropriate bases and mechanism for setting up such markets, exhibitions, and joint pavilions, and identify the economic agencies and businesses that could take part in such activities to ensure a proper and sound promotion of both countries commodities in foreign markets.

The commission was advised about the decision made by the Syrian Ministry of Economy and Foreign Trade to name members of the Syrian side to the committee. It decided to urge competent parties in both countries to facilitate and expedite the work of this committee and complete its mission within two months.

5. The ministers of economy in both countries will be entrusted with coordinating their countries stands in the economic and trade fields with other countries and regional and international organizations.

In the field of electricity, the commission was informed about the implementation of the decisions made at its last session. It decided to task the joint electricity committee with expediting the completion of an initial study to establish a joint power station. This study should be completed within two months and submitted to the Follow-Up and Coordination Commission during its next session so a decision can be made.

6. In the field of industry, the commission looked at the steps that have been taken toward implementing the decisions of its previous session. It decided the following:

A. To approve what has been decided regarding the establishment of a joint black cement factory in the Syrian Arab Republic. The Syrian side will contribute 50 percent of the capital for the factory, while the Lebanese private sector will contribute 50 percent. Concerned parties in both countries will be called upon to proceed with the required legal measures to establish this project and provide what is required. They will brief the commission on the results during its next session.

B. The joint industrial committee will be asked to complete the plan for coordinating the regulations observed in both countries concerning industrial surveys and to prepare a joint guidebook for the existing industries in both countries.

7. In the field of agriculture: The commission looked at the steps toward implementing the relevant decisions made at its last session. It decided to entrust the joint agricultural committee with the following:

A. To prepare a unified agricultural calendar within one month in preparation for approving it.

B. To complete the study of establishing the joint company for marketing agricultural products in preparation for signing an agreement in this regard between the two countries.

8. In the field of planning: The commission decided to entrust competent parties in both countries with setting up a permanent planning committee in accordance with the eighth paragraph of Article 4 of the economic and social cooperation agreement.

9. In the field of tourism: The commission looked at the implementation of the relevant decisions from its last session. It commended the efforts being exerted to promote the tourism sector in both countries, activate tourist activity between them, and to support joint promotion and marketing. It also decided to encourage training, rehabilitation, exchange of expertise, tourist investment, and tourist seminars and exhibitions by tourist institutions in both countries. It called for continuing joint efforts to designate 1995 as the year of Arab tourism.

10. In the field of transportation: The commission expressed satisfaction with the agreement reached in

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Damascus on 30 August 1994, and which it has adopted. The agreement, basically, provides for the following:

A. Reducing the service fees imposed on the value of commodities to 0.2 percent.

B. Canceling fees imposed on private and public transportation vehicles, and returning the deposit required for car books [booklets containing details about individual cars and their drivers].

C. Canceling fees imposed on truck books, including the deposit. Competent parties in both countries have been tasked with issuing required laws, decisions, and regulations to implement this agreement.

11. Facilitating movement between the two countries: The commission expressed satisfaction with the measures that have been taken to facilitate the movement of citizens between the two countries. It welcomed the agreement between the ministers of interior to:

A. Allow Lebanese citizens who do not carry Lebanese passports or identification cards to enter the Syrian Arab Republic in accordance with a laissez-passer authenticated and approved by the Lebanese General Directorate for Public Security.

B. Set a joint border post at Judaydat Yabus.

C. Facilitate the acquisition of entry visas into Lebanon by members of tourist groups coming from Syria. It asked the competent committee to expedite the required arrangements to set up the joint border post.

12. In the field of businessmen's activity: The commission has received with satisfaction the results of the meeting of the Damascus and Beirut Chambers of Commerce which was held in Beirut on 27 June 1994 and the results and proposals that have been reached, most of important of which was the agreement in principle on the following:

A. To set up a joint company in the private sector to take charge of transportation and transit affairs.

B. To set up joint companies in the private sector in the field of various investments and joint marketing. The commission calls on chambers of commerce and industry in both countries to hold further contacts and joint action to bolster and develop economic and trade relations between the two countries and implement its recommendations.

13. In the field of water: The commission looked at the implementation of the decisions from its last session. It expressed satisfaction with the agreement that has been signed during this session concerning the distribution of the Orontes River waters. It decided to urge the joint committee to follow up on the initial feasibility study to establish a joint dam on the southern part of the al-Nahr al-Kabir river.

In conclusion, the commission expressed satisfaction with the brotherly atmosphere that prevailed during its meetings. It stressed the importance of holding periodic meetings by the specialized ministerial committees set up in accordance with the Brotherhood, Cooperation, and Coordination Treaty to achieve the aspired objectives set by the treaty.

It has been decided to hold the commission's third meeting in Beirut in April 1995.

A cultural cooperation agreement between the two countries was also signed. It was signed for the Syrian side by Culture Minister Dr. Najah al-'Attar and for the Lebanese side by Culture and Higher Education Minister Michel Iddah. An executive program for tourism program was also signed. It was signed for the Syrian side by Tourism Minister Muhammad Amin Abu-al-Shamat and for the Lebanese side by Tourism Minister Nicola Fattush. An agreement was signed on the distribution of the Orontes River waters coming from the Lebanese territory. It was signed for the Syrian side by Irrigation Minister Engineer 'Abd-al-Rahman al-Madani and for the Lebanese side by Water and Electricity Minister Ilyas Hubayqah. Lebanese Prime Minister Rafiq al-Hariri and his accompanying delegation left Damascus this afternoon, having led the Lebanese side to the two-day meetings of the Syrian-Lebanese Follow-Up and Coordination Commission.

Leading those who saw him off at Damascus western entrance was Prime Minister Mahmud al-Zu'bi. Al-Hariri was also seen off by the deputy prime ministers for services and economic affairs and the ministers.

After shaking hands with senior officials, al-Hariri and al-Zu'bi stood at the podium. The Syrian and Lebanese national anthems were played, and the two officials then reviewed an honor guard.

Afterward, al-Hariri and his delegation left Damascus for Beirut. Speaking to journalists, Prime Minister Mahmud al-Zu'bi said: We view with satisfaction what has been agreed upon in this session, be it agreements signed or adopted or agreements that were signed earlier by specialists from the two countries.

Al-Zu'bi added: We, as a higher commission for coordination, have endorsed several agreements, and new agreements were signed today. We think that these agreements constitute a new brick in the foundation of cooperation and coordination between the two countries to serve their common interests.

Lebanese Prime Minister Rafiq al-Hariri also spoke to journalists before leaving Damascus. Al-Hariri said the commission's meetings were successful, fruitful, and constructive in the interest of the two fraternal countries, Syria and Lebanon.

He added: We have signed many agreements, most important of which are the tourism and cultural agreements, and the agreement on sharing the Orontes River

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waters. We have finished with a topic that has been addressed since independence. This important and vital topic is the sharing of the Orontes River waters, according to which the Lebanese State will be allowed to irrigate 6,000 hectares of wasteland.

The Lebanese prime minister said that the travel of persons between the two countries has been agreed upon to allow the Syrians and Lebanese to travel easily after most, if not all, fees have been canceled.

Al-Hariri added that Lebanese commodities are now allowed to enter Syria without prior permission.

Concluding, al-Hariri said that the positive, good, and important results achieved during these meetings were a translation of the directives of President Hafiz al-Asad.

Decision on Trade Exemptions With Lebanon Issued

JN2109194594 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1815 GMT 21 Sep 94

[Text] The Ministry of Economy and Foreign Trade issued Decision No. 2436, dated 20 September 1994, exempting imports of Lebanese origin from obtaining importation licenses in implementation of the resolutions of the Syrian-Lebanese Follow-up and Coordination Commission.

The ministry also issued instructions No. 8603/4/9, dated 20 September 1994, which gives approval to import Lebanese goods in accordance with the pro forma invoice and without the precondition of having to deposit foreign currency to finance the import operation.

$6 Million Grant Agreement Signed With Japan

JN1909214394 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1115 GMT 19 Sep 94

[Text] Letters exchanged by the Syrian Government and the Japanese Government were signed at the State Planning Committee this morning. The letters concern a Japanese grant of 600 million Japanese yen, equivalent to approximately $6 million, to be used to increase agricultural and food production in Syria. This is the third such grant Syria received from Japan.

The letters were signed on the Syrian Arab side by Dr. 'Abd-al-Rahim Subay'i, minister of state for planning affairs, whereas Japanese Ambassador in Damascus Minoru Kubota signed for Japan.

The signing ceremony took place in the presence of Dr. Tawfiq Isma'il, assistant minister of state for planning affairs; Dr. Ahmad Mar'i, assistant minister of agriculture and agrarian reform; and several technicians at the State Planning Committee, the Ministry of Agriculture, and the Japanese Embassy in Damascus.

According to these letters, which come in the context of the scientific and technical cooperation agreement signed between Syria and Japan, Syria will purchase agricultural equipment, supplies, and vehicles, as well as pesticides for use in promoting food production and increasing agricultural output in the Governorates of Hims and Hamah.

The two sides exchanged cordial speeches after the signing of the letters, underlining the strong ties of friendship and cooperation between Syria and Japan.

Prior to the signing of the letters, Dr. Subay'i met with the Japanese ambassador, and discussed with him issues related to the Japanese grant and agricultural development. Members of the delegations of both sides attended.

Higher Agricultural Council Approves 1994-95 Plan

JN2009061994 Damascus AL-BA'TH in Arabic 31 Aug 94 pp 1, 11

[Excerpts] Damascus (SANA)—The Higher Agricultural Council held a meeting under Prime Minister Mahmud al-Zu'bi at 1300 yesterday. The meeting was attended by comrade Ahmad Qabalan, member of the Regional Command of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party and head of the Regional Peasants Bureau; Rashid Akhtarini, deputy prime minister for services affairs; Salim Yasin, deputy prime minister for economic affairs; minister members of the council; the chairman of the Central Control and Inspection Board; and several directors and advisers. During its meeting, the council discussed the draft agricultural production plan for the 1994-1995 agricultural season. [passage omitted]

The plan aims at ensuring agricultural products needed for local consumption, providing factories with the raw materials they need for their operation, and exporting the surplus in order to secure the necessary foreign currencies for financing development projects.

The agricultural production plan for the 1994-1995 season is significant in that it aims at expanding exploited areas by 15,000 hectares and increasing irrigated areas by 71,000 hectares. Moreover, it aims at ensuring fodder for livestock and actually achieving self-sufficiency in fodder by expanding the areas grown with hay and cutting down on fodder imports. [passage omitted]

Following the discussions, the council approved the agricultural production plan for the 1994-1995 agricultural season. The council discussed the production costs of peanuts, apples, grapes, and natural cotton cocoons in 1994. It also discussed the topics submitted to it and made the appropriate decisions on them.

Daily Urges Focus on Improving Export Quality

JN1909081294 Damascus TISHRIN in Arabic 31 Aug 94 p 8

["Frankly Speaking" column by 'Abd-al-Fattah 'Awad: "Made in Syria"]

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[Text] During talk about the obstacles facing exports, the problem of quality and specifications always seems to crop up. The export process cannot possibly succeed if attention is not given to quality. How many times have we heard about Syrian goods being returned after contracts have been signed? The problem becomes even more serious when the reputation of Syrian industries and the Syrian producer is at stake.

When we raise this issue with government officials their excuse is always that concentration on quality leads to an increase in the cost of production and therefore of prices, making them less economic and competitive in world markets. They say the production cost is also increased by the old production lines in our factories.

Here we find it opportune to make a proposal that we hope will get the attention of government officials in the production sectors. Briefly, our proposal calls for assigning certain factories and production lines for export only and considering them as free zones exempt of import-export restrictions. No doubt we will notice the effect of this process after a specific period of production when our goods reach world markets.

We often say that exporting is an important national issue and that quality and price are its two main pillars. We believe that paying attention to quality in the coming phase is essential to give Syrian goods the reputation they deserve among foreign consumers. We also believe it is possible to attain this objective since some of our goods have already found their places in the show windows of many firms in several world capitals. Syrian garments, for instance, are popular and enjoy a good reputation. What we need to do now is to concentrate more on specifications and quality. There must be quality control on our exports, since a slight fault in one deal could effect all our goods. We really want to reach the stage when it will be a great pride to read the words "Made in Syria."

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Afghanistan

Government Claims Capture of 'Important' Post

LD2109185294 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Pashto 1530 GMT 21 Sep 94

[Text] An important militia's position in Khenjan area was conquered. A security source reported to the military section of the Bakhtar Information Agency that the mojahedin of the islamic army in the course of a successful operation launched this morning conquered an important position of the Golboddin-Dostam militia in Khenjan area.

During this operation (?15 militias) were captured. [Word indistinct] machine-guns, 60 Kalashnikovs, two RPG-type rockets, and a quantity of ammunition were seized by the mojahedin.

Military operations are continuing to crush the defamed and corrupt militia.

Ministers Meet, Discuss Current Issues

LD2109220094 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Pashto 1530 GMT 21 Sep 94

[Text] Chaired by esteemed Deputy Prime Minister Mawlawi Mohammad Arsalan Rahmani, the high session of ministers was held this morning.

The press office of the Prime Ministry reported to the Bakhtar Information Agency that the session first considered the ministries' and departments' proposals upon which necessary decisions were rendered.

On the basis of a proposal presented by the Ministry of Planning, the participation of an Afghan delegation led by esteemed Minister of Planning Seyyed Mohammad 'Ali Javid in the 10th session of the trade and economic cooperation committee of the Islamic conference, due to be held in Istanbul, was approved.

On the basis of another proposal presented by the Ministry of High and Vocational Education regarding an increase in material benefits for some categories of personnel in science and administration cadres of Kabul University and educational institutes, the session decided that this issue is to be remitted to the commission on preparing the budget and plan for 1373 [year beginning 21 March 1994] for consideration and advice.

Abdol Hai Alahi, the minister of state for state affairs, presented detailed information regarding the visit of the Afghan delegation to Pakistan. Esteemed Dr. Hamidollah Tarzi, minister of state for economic Affairs, then presented a report in connection with his visit to Pakistan to discuss some economic matters. The results of this visit were regarded as productive and positive.

Air Force Engineer Promoted to Major General

LD2109181294 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Pashto 1530 GMT 21 Sep 94

[Excerpt] In accordance with a decree issued by esteemed professor Borhanoddin Rabbani, president and supreme commander of the Armed Forces of the Islamic State of Afghanistan, an extraordinary promotion rank of major general has been approved for engineer Mohammad Sadeq, head engineer in the General Command of the Air Force. [passage omitted]

India

Government Begins Preparing for Kashmir Elections

BK2009052594 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0245 GMT 20 Sep 94

[Text] In Jammu and Kashmir, the process for holding assembly elections has been set in motion with the government issuing a notification to the state Delimitation Commission to resume its work and submit its report at the earliest. According to the election office sources in Jammu, the notification followed consultations between the government and the chief election commissioner, Mr. T.N. Seshan. Earlier, when the Delimitation Commission submitted its report, the chief election commissioner had rejected, saying that no representation was sought from the Election Commission.

Meanwhile, the state governor, General K.V. Krishna Rao, has asked the militants to lay down arms, shun violence, and join the electoral process. Addressing public meetings at Loran and Mandi in the border district of Punch, he asked militants to test their popularity with the people through ballots and not bullets. He cautioned the people against evil designs and said people must give a befitting reply to their machinations and help in providing a popular government in the state in the coming months.

Armed Forces 'Disgusted' Over Uttarakhand Issue

BK1909134494 Delhi THE HINDUSTAN TIMES in English 14 Sep 94 p 12

[Text] New Delhi, Sept. 1: The armed forces, which bear the brunt of even internal national security when politicians blunder are a worried lot. Simply speaking they are disgusted with the way Government is handling the Uttarakhand issue.

The reason for their unhappiness is plain. Uttarakhand—like Punjab—is a major recruiting ground for the Army. Like Punjab again, Uttarakhand has a sizeable number of ex-servicemen. Both Garhwalis and Kumaonis provide men for two intrepid formations, Garhwal Rifles and Kumaon Regiment, besides contributing to the bulk of what constitutes the Assam Rifles.

Going by their sordid episode in the State of Punjab, they hardly entertain the prospect of losing the loyalty of their serving soldiers and officers as well as their ex-servicemen.

There is an additional reason for their laid-back attitude. Like Punjab, all through the Garhwal and Kumaon hills

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lie their fortification—ammunition dumps, communication centres, radar stations, tactical launch points, monitoring centres and tactical airfields and helipads—to keep the Chinese dragon in check.

Politicians on both sides of the great divide, too, have come to appreciate the informal stand of the armed forces. And they seem to have signalled to the Government not to turn Uttarakhand into a boiling cauldron. This goes to do a good deal of explanation on UP [Uttar Pradesh] Chief Minister Mulayam Singh Yadav's stand to share platform with BSP chief Kanshi Ram while other parties being no less than an antagonist to his Government.

The tragedy of Mr Yadav is his own ruthless pursuit of power. Not confident of PAC [Provincial Armed Constabulary] holding the fort, the request for central forces was obvious and the centre [federal government] addressed the request immediately. But this raises a pertinent question of whether the involvement of central troops in other troubled spots doesn't carry much currency.

Meanwhile, in UP's hill region ex-servicemen have declined the State Government's request for laying down their arms. So have others in Garhwal and Kumaon. If steps are not immediately taken to arrest this trend—visible in recent days—indications are all there for a high pitched confrontation in the plains.

By displaying opposition to the State Government's lukewarm response to the Uttarakhand stir, the Congress party has done its job. While advocating for action based on ground realities the Congress party feels enthused by the changing chemistry in the State. The Congress has the upper castes behind it, the Muslims will join in to spite the BSP [Bahujan Samaj Party], and a sizeable section of the non-Yadav backwards will rally in their own larger interest. It makes a winning combination, provided the Congress high command gets over its "dead habit" of being obsessed with the south of Vindhyachal.

If the high command has been deferring action waiting for the most auspicious moment, say UPCC [Uttar Pradesh Congress Committee] leaders, it is here—counting on the failure of the Government-sponsored bandh. Its partial success, say these leaders, will be the right measuring rod to gauge Mr Yadav's hold among the masses.

Accord on Space Cooperation Signed With Ukraine

BK1709101694 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0245 GMT 17 Sep 94

[Text] An agreement was signed in Bangalore yesterday between the Indian Space Research Organization and the Ukrainian National Space Agency for cooperation in the peaceful use of outer space. The agreement provides for cooperation in space research in areas like remote sensing, communication, material processing, and mutual use of a number of ground facilities.

Telecom Policy To Allow 49 Percent Foreign Equity

BK1709162394 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1530 GMT 17 Sep 94

[Text] Foreign equity up to 49 percent is to be allowed in Indian companies offering basic telephone services. The communications minister, Mr. Sukh Ram, told a news conference in New Delhi today that the decision has been taken to attract large-scale foreign investment into the sector. Announcing the broad guidelines for the entry of private sector in telecom services, he said only companies registered in India will be eligible for the license to be given for a period of 15 years. He said the licensing will be on a circle basis and only one private company will operate in the circle in addition to the services provided by the Department of Telecom [DOT]. The private operators will not be allowed for long distance telecom network initially, for which they have to depend on the DOT.

Mr. Sukh Ram said a Telecom Regulatory Authority will be set up to regulate pricing, revenue sharing among service providers, and to protect consumers interests. This autonomous body will consist of a chairman and two members. The minister said the policy will be transparent and the highest financial bidder will be offered the license. Mr. Sukh Ram said though we cannot set a timeframe for the entry of private sector, he expects some paperwork to be completed by the end of the year. Asked whether the telephone tariffs under the private sector will go up, the minister said the inherent competition with the DOT will ensure that the private operators reduce their operation cost.

Our correspondent says the new national telecom policy provided for the entry of private companies in this essential service, recognizing the urgent need for providing universal access to basic telecom services by 1997. The guidelines were prepared by an interministerial group headed by Mr. M.G. Joshi.

'Equilibrium-Oriented' U.S. Policy Criticized

BK1909112894 Delhi JANSATTA in Hindi 17 Sep 94 p 6

[Editorial: "Behaving Like a Dishonest Shopkeeper"]

[Text] When Robin Raphel, the U.S. assistant secretary of state, visited India, her friends and supporters in India were unanimous in their view that she was not as bad as she had been portrayed. Many photographs were published showing her letting out a loud guffaw in the company of Home Minister S.B. Chavan; Rajesh Pilot, minister of state for home affairs; and many others as if they were sharing a big joke and laughing was part of essential diplomatic behavior or decorum. Ms. Raphel left having laughed to her heart's content and having made our leaders laugh uproariously. Her departure was

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followed by Pakistan's regular wailing, but now Ms. Raphel's friends could prove their point and assert that she is really not a bad woman at all, especially after her open admission that Pakistan supports terrorism in Kashmir. In a speech she gave in her country recently she confessed that Pakistan has long been fanning terrorism and helping the terrorists in Kashmir and is still doing so despite America's repeated attempts to make Pakistan stop these nefarious activities.

The earlier image of Ms. Raphel was distinctly pro-Pakistan. When she went to Pakistan she had very friendly talks there, but when she came to India she did not hold any such friendly talks. Not only this, but she even called the merger of Kashmir with India a point of discord. She had nothing to say, however, about Pakistan's continued support for terrorists active on Indian soil. She still believes that there has been no change in U.S. policy on Kashmir; that it remains the same as before.

In a way it can be said that there has been no change in U.S. policy on Kashmir. As a matter of fact, it is unfair to say there has been any change in U.S. policy anywhere or any time, as it is not affected by political or diplomatic considerations. The United States is out and out a business-minded country. It is like a seasoned salesman—it points out the discomfort of the summer season when it has to sell refrigerators; to sell heaters it magnifies the hazards of a biting winter. In the same way, it stresses the essential role of weapons in establishing peace when it has weapons to sell; when it does not it conjures up a deadly picture to assert that weapons pose a great danger to peace.

This U.S. style is totally "equilibrium-oriented." It has to establish equilibrium just like that proverbial monkey who, in order to "justly" apportion a disputed piece of sweet meat between two cats, kept on disturbing the balance to keep a maximum portion for itself! If Nawaz Sharif's declaration about the bomb meant that the United States needed to put pressure on Pakistan for its own interests, it would not mind calling Pakistan a villain and a wicked country. If, after a while, putting pressure on India or inciting Pakistan against India was deemed a political expediency, the United States would unscrupulously indulge in that as well. The United States cannot be anyone's faithful friend or genuine well wisher because it holds in its hands not the scales of justice but the scales of a petty shopkeeper. No doubt even a shopkeeper could be a friend if he weighed things correctly. How can a full-fledged government be believed, though, if it behaves like a dishonest shopkeeper? The real issue is this: Why should such a country be permitted to (?make a commotion) in world affairs? If Ms. Robin Raphel wants to make jokes she can do so merrily, but why share in her non-serious tantrums? We should at least be serious on this vital issue.

Commentary Discusses Government's New Drug Policy

BK1809124694 Delhi All India Radio General Overseas Service in English 1010 GMT 18 Sep 94

[Commentary by Dr. Navin Pundit]

[Text] The new drug policy announced by the government on Thursday abolishes industrial licensing for most drugs, frees about 70 bulk drugs from price control, and treats foreign companies with an equity of upto 51 percent on par with wholly Indian companies. Outlining the long-awaited policy, Minister for Chemicals and Fertilizers Mr. Ram Lakhan Singh Yadav said that the government has tried to strike a balance between the needs of a common man and incentives to industry.

Under the new policy, there will be no price control for drugs having an annual turnover of less than 40 million rupees. At present, the limit is five million rupees only. The policy also allows automatic approval for foreign technology agreements [and] a uniform maximum allowable post manufacturing expenses of 100 percent for all drugs under price control. Moreover, two new authorities, the National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority—NPPA—and the National Drugs Authority—NDA—would be set up to monitor the various aspects of the industry. The policy proposes to mobilize additional funds by levying a cess of one percent on production of drugs and pharmaceuticals to establish more zonal and subzonal offices under the Central Drugs Standards Control Organization and more regional drug testing laboratories. These measures would be adopted through a special legislation later on. These far-reaching changes in the drug policy of 1986 have been brought about to bring it in consonance with the industrial policy 1991 and the present exim [export-import] policy.

The policy envisages that besides the drugs reserved for the public sector, licensing would also be required for a few other drugs involving recomponent DNA [Deoxyribonucleic Acid] technology and specific cell or issue targeted formulation. The much-awaited policy withdrawing licensing controls on many pharmaceutical formulations and allowing parity between companies with foreign equity participation and Indian companies will come into effect immediately, while the new drug price control order will take another two or three months to be notified. The main objective of the new policy had been to ensure that adequate supplies of drugs were made available to the people at reasonable prices. The new pricing mechanism would be under the control of an autonomous agency, the NPPA, but enforcement of price controls would be handed by the proposed NDA. The government would keep a watch on the prices of medicines taken out of price control, while the industry had also given an assurance that it would behave responsibily by not raising prices unduly. In case prices of these medicines rose unreasonably, appropriate measures would be taken, including reclamping of price control, said the minister. The new policy envisages that the

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number of drugs under price control was reduced to about 73 from the present 142. This reduces the span of price control from 70 to 50 percent of the total drugs. Under the new policy, the government would place special emphasis on encouraging research and development [R and D]. An interministerial committee will be set up to work out a package of incentives for promotion of R and D in the pharmaceutical sector.

Viewed in the context of economic liberalization, the decision to abolish industrial licensing in the drug sector has been widely welcomed. It is in the fitness of the things that the discrimination against companies with foreign equity has been removed. The government has taken a balanced approach in recasting the drug policy in tune with the changed atmosphere of industrialization in the country. While care has been taken to protect the interests of consumers, the growth of the pharmaceutical industry to meet the challenges of the new World Trade Agreement has also been kept in mind.

Concern on New Drug Policy Expressed

BK2109134094 Delhi JANSATTA in Hindi 17 Sep 94 p 6

[Editorial: "Will It Be Within Reach?"]

[Text] The announcement on freeing the drug industry from the license system is in accordance with the new economic policy. There will now be no need for a license to manufacture drugs of large-scale consumption. Providing easy entry of foreign companies into the Indian drug market is also an effort to implement the Dunkel draft. The companies with a 51 percent foreign equity have been given the same rights enjoyed by 100 percent Indian companies. Permission to import foreign technology will be granted immediately. This has long been the demand of the Western drug industry. According to the Dunkel draft, foreign technology can be used only after appropriately compensating the original companies. However, if the Indian Government had imposed strict conditions on foreign technology, it would not have been easy for Western companies to dominate the Indian market. Now this obstacle has also been removed.

The union minister for drugs primarily called the press conference to announce the drug pricing policy, but he only revealed that an expert committee has been constituted to fix the prices. It has been accepted in principle that the large-scale drug manufacturing industry is not tied up with any strict pricing policy. Now only 73 drugs will be under the drug price control system, while the number previously was 143. At the same time, drug manufacturers have been allowed to reap more profits. Only two types of medicines—related to biological techniques and DNA—have been kept under control because it was considered inappropriate to keep them outside control. Companies manufacturing drugs worth only up to 40 million rupees annually will remain under the price control system.

Although the government has claimed that efforts will be made to stop a monopoly in the drug industry, no effective policy has been formulated in this direction. Even if a company manufactures drugs worth only 10 million rupees, if its retail trade share is 90 percent, it is a monopoly. If many companies jointly try to control the market, it will be a kind of establishing collective monopoly. Lack of any price control will lead to consumers having to pay arbitrary prices, especially if the medicine concerned is essential for health. The minister has, however, given assurances that if prices are raised without justification, the government will take action that could include the enforcement of price control. In fact, the government is confident that market forces will themselves establish control, and there will not be an unusual price increase. This assurance has also been given by the Western advisers and representatives of the drug industry. That is why only after two to three years the policy of free trade for the drug industry will be fully tested. The impact of intellectual property rights will also be felt by that time.

The government will provide additional facilities to encourage research, but in light of free import of foreign technology, local research will, perhaps, not prove effective. Separate authority for the indigenous system of medicine is a step in the right direction, but it has not been made clear what strategy is being adopted to encourage a popular and effective Indian medicinal system. The necessity is to develop the Indian medicinal system as an alternative, rather than keep it outside the purview of the main medicinal system by describing it a customary method.

Article on 'Purpose' of Pakistani Bomb Efforts

BK2109150094 Delhi JANSATTA in Hindi 20 Sep 94 p 6

[Article by Manmohan Talkh: "The Goal and Purpose Behind Pakistan's Making the Bomb"]

[Text] Many famous experts on defense have repeatedly written about Pakistan's bomb in the renowned British magazine THE DEFENCE JOURNAL and Australia's quite credible quarterly STRATEGIC STUDIES IN ASIA. At the recent special conference organized by the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace, held in Sydney, Mr Leonard Specter revealed that Pakistan has not just one or two but six atomic bombs. Now Pakistan's ex-premier, Nawaz Sharif, has also admitted that Pakistan has the bomb. However, long before these revelations took place, in January 1994 the foreign minister of Pakistan, Sardar Asif Ahmad Ali, unambiguously threatened during his Uzbekistan visit that if the Kashmir tangle was not resolved soon, an atomic war might break out between India and Pakistan.

This means that under the pretext of the Kashmir dispute Pakistan might start a war and drop the bomb on India at the first possible opportunity. Pakistan's possession of the bomb also means that it can easily divert most of its forces deployed on the Western Punjab and Sindh border to Kashmir. The scientist who made the bomb available to Pakistan is Abdul Qadir Khan. Not much

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time has elapsed since, talking to the Western reporters, he declared that to make India genuflect before Pakistan in war, Pakistan needed just five or six atomic bombs. The article published in the magazine STRATEGIC STUDIES about the Pakistani bomb has the following lines of special significance: "Pakistan can now easily reduce the number of troop divisions deployed in the Lahore and Multan sector, remove many other forces from the Southern Sector, and send all these spare troops to Kashmir."

While attending this very Sydney Conference, Dr S. Vishwas of Calcutta University said, "What will be the ultimate outcome, even if Pakistan manages to destroy India's largest city? The UN Security Council would summon an emergency meeting, and both countries would be asked to cease fire immediately. Then the UN Secretary General would be asked to visit the subcontinent and make both the warring nations accept negotiations."

Having referred to the earlier statement of Abdul Qadir Khan that "manufacturing missiles, antitank rockets, and atomic weapons have top priority in our program," the American atomic war specialist, Mr Pressler, told the conference that Pakistan had, indeed, established various bodies way back in 1977 in a variety of cities of the world whose basic job was to procure required material for making the bomb by any means. The German firm "Team Industries" and the Dutch company "Weirgate" were approached and their services sought by Pakistan to procure uranium for the 'Centrifuge Plant' from Britain, America, Germany, Switzerland, and Holland. Pakistan also sought the special steel used in the manufacture of the bomb. According to Mr Pressler, all of this material was bought by Pakistan at an exorbitant cost for what it claimed was a cloth mill under construction. Special equipment was procured to process fissionable uranium-235 from natural uranium through intense electrification methods. The assistance extended by China to Pakistan to convert natural uranium into bomb-manufacturing material is under the pretext of bilateral cooperation between the two countries.

Abdul Qadir Khan was very much aware that a bomb manufactured through the use of plutonium would prove cheaper than one made with uranium. Hence talks to obtain plutonium were first held with France, but when France refused, Pakistan began to procure the required atomic material clandestinely from other countries and managed to install a small-scale plutonium plant. According to the Australian expert, Mr Hassler, by the beginning of 1990 Pakistan had acquired the capability to prepare 93 percent pure enriched uranium to make a uranium-based bomb.

Now the technique of making the bomb has advanced so much, or rather has become so easy, that there is no need to even test the uranium-based bomb. Pakistan's bomb is a slightly altered form of the bomb that China has. According to the experts' estimate, the Pakistani bomb weighs about 400 pounds. That means that this bomb is technically far superior to the initial bombs that the United States developed and hence more lethal. But how would Pakistan drop the bomb on India? One way would be to drop it from a plane, and another would be missiles. However, looking at the Pakistan's present technological capability it would apparently have to use bomber aircraft. According to British atomic experts, in a few years Pakistan will be able to make the bombs in a strength of one to 20 Kilotons. These bombs can be delivered by the Mirage-III, Mirage-V, and the B-57 bombers. Pakistan has all these aircraft. However, to drop such bombs she would have to prepare special racks if she uses F-16's.

What does India have to retaliate against Pakistan's bomb? If India prepares to make the bomb on the basis of its current atomic apparatus (which is obviously much more developed and hence more deadly than that used for the Pokharan explosion in 1974)—Pakistan would face great difficulty in matching the Indian atomic strength. Even if China openly supports Pakistan in the latter's atomic preparation—which appears an impossible presumption going by the present-day political trend—if India manufactures a bomb, Pakistan would find it very hard to face India.

According to the war experts, India's MiG-19, MiG-21, and Jaguar fighter planes, her antiaircraft guns, SAM's, and other missiles can very effectively guard her borders so that Pakistani bombers would have difficulty penetrating Indian territory. However, attacking Bombay from the sea would be rather easy. Notwithstanding all this preparation, one question that springs to every mind is: Would Pakistan really commit the blunder of attacking India?

Iran

Palestinian Hamas Delegation Said in Tehran

TA2109154594 Jerusalem AL-QUDS in Arabic 21 Sep 94 p 5

[Text] Damascus, Quds Press—A Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] official has said that a Hamas delegation is currently visiting the Iranian capital, Tehran. According to the official, who asked to remain anonymous, the delegation is led by Hamas Political Bureau head Dr. Musa Abu-Marzuq and includes Political Bureau members Engineer Ibrahim Ghawshah and 'Imad al-'Alami.

The Palestinian official said that the delegation will meet with senior Iranian Government officials, including Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati, and will discuss current developments in the region, particularly in the Palestinian arena.

The official said that the Palestinian delegation's visit falls within framework of a Hamas tour of some Arab and Islamic capitals. He stressed that Hamas delegations

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will visit a number of Arab countries, including Gulf states, but he refused to name them.

China Expresses Condolences Over Diplomat's Death

LD2209090294 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0430 GMT 22 Sep 94

[Text] Following the death of an Iranian diplomat and his son in a shooting incident in which an armed man fired on a number of vehicles in Beijing, Mr. Qian Qichen, minister of foreign affairs and deputy prime minister of the People's Republic of China, sent a message of condolences addressed to Foreign Minister Velayati last night.

In this message, China's foreign minister expressed regret over the occurrence of the incident and condolences over the killing of Mr. Yusuf Mohammadi and his son to our country's foreign minister and to the family.

Khamene'i Inspects Arms Factory, Delivers Speech

LD2109184194 Tehran IRIB Television First Program Network in Persian 1630 GMT 21 Sep 94

[Excerpts] His Eminence Ayatollah Khamene'i, the exalted leader of the Islamic Revolution and the commander in chief of the Armed Forces, visited a complex of mechanical industries belonging to the Defense Ministry and Armed Forces Logistics this morning on a tour of inspection.

During the visit, lasting more than three hours, Khamene'i inspected various stages of a production line for a 23-mm anti-aircraft artillery. The head of the mechanical industries group briefed him on the technical aspects of products in each section of the group. [passage omitted]

In a speech delivered at the end of the visit to a gathering of officials and managers of various sections of the mechanical industries group and Defense Ministry managers, Khamene'i thanked and praised the creative, innovative, and devout forces of the complex. He described their efforts as giving hope and joy and as being most interesting and outstanding. [passage omitted]

The leader of the Islamic revolution considered the further activation of the brains and talents of a state to be contrary to the objectives of colonialists. He graciously said: For the purpose of imposing its domination on nations, colonialism follows a specific policy, which is buying out the brains and bringing them under its service or destroying them and creating despair and undermining the morale of innovative and creative elements. In the 50 years before the victory of the Islamic revolution, colonialists put many of our brainy and talented people to serve colonial objectives or busied them with worthless tasks and, through creating despair and hopelessness, prevented the creativity of many of the brains of this nation. [passage omitted]

The commander in chief of the Armed Forces considered that the culture of colonialism was essentially based on humiliating nations and discouraging them from achieving greatness. He said: Today, the obstacles of the past no longer exist in Islamic Iran; everything is moving against the wishes of the colonialists. All the developments inside the country are bringing hope to intellectuals, innovators, and scholars. Religious faith is providing powerful support for practical work and endeavor. Khamene'i considered that depriving nations from the power to defend themselves was one of the ways in which nations were made powerless in the face of hegemonist powers. He said: scholars and those who possess scientific and intellectual knowledge in the country's defense sector should try and serve the Islamic homeland, the revolution, and the proud people of Iran through their initiatives and innovation and do their utmost to make up for underdevelopment.

Khamene'i emphasized that Islamic Iran does not accept bullying by any power. He said: As the young defenders of this nation, the combatants of Islam enjoy very good defensive power because they possess the right morale and skills. The enemies of this nation have not benefitted from sensationalizing and creating a hue and cry about Iran's military power. The Islamic Republic of Iran has spent even less money on arms than the smallest of its neighboring countries. However, at the same time, it will act in accordance with what is in its best interest. Khamene'i considered that the state's current interest in the field of defense lay in moving towards initiative, domestic production, and the elimination of dependence on external sources for sensitive requirements. In conclusion, he reminded that there was a need for having the resources to fulfill this objective. [passage omitted]

President Receives New Ambassadors

LD2109142594 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0930 GMT 21 Sep 94

[Text] The accredited ambassadors of Nepal and Guinea in Iran were received separately by President Hashemi-Rafsanjani today to present their credentials.

(Mukanda Prasa Dungel), the new Nepalese ambassador, said at his meeting with the president, expressing his country's desire to expand ties with the Islamic Republic of Iran: The Government and the people of Nepal regard the people of Iran with respect and monitor with interest the news of their growth and development.

Referring to the long-standing ties between Iran and Nepal, Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani said: The efforts of two countries' diplomatic missions will play an effective role in expanding the existing cooperation.

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According to the Central News Unit, the president told (Mamuna Bangura), the new Guinean ambassador: The past struggles of Guinea against colonialism are of importance to the people of Iran. Referring to cooperation between the two countries in the exploitation of copper mines and the expansion of railroads, he said: The grounds for cooperation between Iran and Guinea are very favorable and should be better utilized.

The Guinean ambassador described Islam as a foundation for the deepening of ties between the two countries. He said: The Guinean Government, in accordance with the wish of its Muslim people, desires better relations with the Islamic Republic of Iran.

Integration of Qazvin With Tehran Province Approved

LD2109173494 Tehran IRIB Television First Program Network in Persian 1630 GMT 21 Sep 94

[Excerpt] During a cabinet session today chaired by President Hashemi-Rafsanjani, a proposal made by the Political-Defense Committee on the separation of the town of Qazvin from Zanjan Province and its integration with Tehran Province was approved. [passage omitted]

Outlines of Satellite Dish Ban Approved

LD2109133894 Tehran IRNA in English 1918 GMT 20 Sep 94

[Text] Tehran, Sept. 20, IRNA—Minister of culture and Islamic guidance, Mostafa Mirsalim, here Tuesday said people are awaiting legal actions against cultural assault and its symbol—satellite dishes.

Addressing the open session of the Majlis, debating outlines of a motion on banning use of satellite dishes, Mirsalim said that one must not remain indifferent when it comes to cultural assault.

Calling for banning the use satellite dishes, Mirsalim said that due to popular support the law will be enforced successfully. He said that the objectives of satellite programs was to conquer the minds of the Asian societies and dominate them.

Following the debate, outlines of the motion [were] approved and it [was] forwarded to the commission to study its articles.

Further on Ban on Civil Servants Holding 2 Jobs

LD2109153294 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0930 GMT 21 Sep 94

[Text] In the news bulletin you heard that the bill banning the holding of more than one public sector post was ratified in today's Majles open session. We draw your attention to further explanations by our correspondent:

Under the single urgency bill, in accordance with Article 141 of the Constitution, each person can hold only one civil service post, and the holding of any other post is forbidden in establishments—Majles deputyship, public defender's office, legal counsellorship, chairmanship, and managing-directorship or membership of boards of directors of various private companies, except cooperatives affiliated to government departments and establishments.

Under the bill, academic posts in universities and educational and research establishments are excluded, and any posts, other than teaching, in such establishments, is not considered as academic posts.

Also, participation and membership in supreme councils, general assemblies, boards of directors, and councils of government establishments and companies—which are considered as the government's legal representatives and are performed under the law and in connection with responsibilities and duties of the post—are not considered as a second post. But paying and receiving of salaries for participation or membership are forbidden in the said cases.

Those who have been appointed directly by the esteemed leader in various executive establishments are exempt from the law.

Under the bill offenders will be sentenced to between six months' and a year's suspension, and the sums received from the posts held, except for salaries and benefits from their main posts, will be confiscated. If the offense is repeated, they will be dismissed from service.

Those who order and those who issue, knowingly, the appointment notifications for the second posts will receive half the sentence. Those in charge of the finances of government establishments, if they have knowledge of the second posts and if they pay salaries and benefits on them, will be sentenced to three months' and six months' suspension.

Islamic Revolution Said 'Right on Track'

LD2209110594 Tehran IRNA in English 1022 GMT 22 Sep 94

[Text] Tehran, Sept. 22, IRNA—An English daily Thursday editorialized on sacred defense week and wrote that fourteen years ago the Ba'thist forces launched an all-out war against Iran but the aggressor did not gain anything except its own destruction after eight years.

The "TEHRAN TIMES" underlined that none of the aims of aggression including toppling the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran, changing the geography of the region, expanding the sphere of influence of the enemy and checking the exportation of the ideas of the Islamic revolution were achieved.

"The U.S. and its satellite states only wasted their time and energy in attempting to achieve the above aims.

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They only succeeded in eliminating or maiming the intelligent individuals who were running the affairs of the sacred system in Iran", it noted.

The fact remains that the main loser in the war was Iraq and its President Saddam, since Iraq might never recover from the destruction, whereas Iran is on its way to recovery, marching toward the aims of the revolution, the editorial added.

The aim of the Islamic revolution was to revive the pure religion of the Prophet Muhammad (pbuh), to invite other nations to it and to inspire the then passive Muslim ummah to fight the arrogance of the West, it remarked. "Fortunately", the paper said, in the past decade these aims have been achieved, notwithstanding the enemy's deliberate lack of understanding of, and appreciation for, the cause of Islamic revival, the Islamic revolution is right on track, its effects visible well beyond Iran's borders.

The daily stressed that today all these effects can be seen through the demonstrations in Washington of the youth against the violent and savage nature of their government, and when we see Muslim women wearing the prescribed Islamic dress (hijab) in London and Paris, when we see native fighters fighting the forces of aggression and imperialism throughout the world and finally when we see Muslims in all Islamic countries persuading the politicians to follow the rules of Islam.

It concluded by saying that we honor the values derived from eight years of sacred defense and invite our friends to deeply study the priceless values of the culture that emerged from this sacrifice and martyrdom.

Bhutan

Bangladeshi Prime Minister Zia Arrives on Visit

Invited by King

BK2109143494 Dhaka Radio Bangladesh Network in Bengali 1230 GMT 21 Sep 94

[Text] Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Ziaur Rahman was accorded a hearty welcome when she arrived at Paro airport this afternoon on a two-day state visit to Bhutan. She is visiting Bhutan at the invitation of King Jigme Singye Wangchuck. Begum Zia, current chairperson of the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation [SAARC], was received by King Wanghuck and the queen at the airport. A 19-gun salute boomed in her honor. Contingents of the Royal Bhutan Army presented an attractive guard of honor to the Bangladeshi leader as the national anthems of the two countries were played. A small child presented her a bouquet. The prime minister was introduced to Bhutanese ministers, senior officials and diplomats.

Earlier, in the morning, Begum Zia left Dhaka for Bhutan. She was seen off at Zia International Airport by cabinet ministers, members of the diplomatic corps, and senior civil and military officers. Foreign Minister Mustafizur Rahman and parliament members, Shaheen Ara Haq and Sirajul Islam, are accompanying the prime minister.

Begum Zia is making the visit as part of her visit to South Asian countries as the chairperson of SAARC. Bangladesh attaches great importance to the visit, which will further strengthen Bangladesh's existing close and friendly relations with Bhutan. Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Ziaur Rahman and Bhutanese King Wangchuck will hold a formal meeting today. They are expected to review the progress achieved by SAARC in core areas of regional cooperation for realizing the socioeconomic aspirations of 1 billion people of South Asia. The prime minister's agenda for discussions includes the expansion of bilateral trade and economic cooperation through joint ventures and other issues of common concern to the two Asian countries. The prime minister is scheduled to return home tomorrow.

Meets With King

BK2209074294 Dhaka Radio Bangladesh Network in English 0130 GMT 22 Sep 94

[Text] Bangladesh and Bhutan have agreed to remove trade gap between them and continue to work together for strengthening bilateral ties as well as promoting SAARC [South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation] causes. The agreement was reached during formal talks between Prime Minister Khaleda Zia and Bhutanese King Jigme Singye Wangchuk in Paro yesterday afternoon. The Bangladesh prime minister is now on a two-day official visit to Bhutan at the invitation of King Wangchuk. The talks were held in a most cordial atmosphere at the (Edian) Country Palace. The two sides discussed economic issues; water resources of the common rivers of the region; issues pertaining to SAARC; and socioeconomic programs, including poverty alleviation, for the development of South Asia. The Bhutanese king described Begum Zia's visit as a step forward toward increasing the existing bilateral relations between the two countries. [Words indistinct] to remove the trade gap between the two countries. The Bhutanese side responded positively to Bangladesh's request, assuring it would do everything possible to remove the gap.

At the meeting, the Bangladesh side suggested a joint effort in harnessing the common rivers for sharing their water flows. The Bangladesh side said the utilization of water resources of the common rivers for irrigation projects and power generation could help alleviate the common problems to a large extent.

Bangladesh expressed its deep concern over the proposed construction of a dam on the River Sankosh and hoped Bhutan will give due consideration so that the construction of the dam does not have any adverse impact on Bangladesh. If the dam is constructed, it will substantially reduce the water flows of Brahmaputra and

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Tista Rivers in the dry season. The Bhutanese side said the construction of the dam is a proposal only and the feasibility of the proposed dam is under study.

Describing Bangladesh as a friend and good neighbor, King Wangchuk said both Bhutan and Bangladesh share identical views on various SAARC issues. The Bhutanese king lauded Begum Zia's leadership as the SAARC chairperson, saying she has been making commendable contribution to make the seven-nation regional association as an effective forum.

Describing the formal meeting as rewarding, Prime Minister Khaleda Zia said Bangladesh is attaching great importance to further develop the relations with Bhutan. During the talks, which lasted for over an hour, Begum Zia thanked the Bhutanese king for the warm hospitality extended to her and the members of Bangladesh delegation. The Bangladesh delegation was represented, among others, by Foreign Minister Mustafizur Rahman; Sirajul Islam, MP; and Shaheen Ara Haq, MP. The Bhutanese side included its Foreign Minister Lyonpo Dawa Tsering, and Commerce and Industries Minister Lyonpo Om Pradan.

Pakistan

President Leghari: Country Has No Atomic Bomb

BK2209092594 Karachi DAWN in English 22 Sep 94 p 7

[Report by Abdus Sattar Ghazali on "exclusive" interview with President Farooq Ahmed Khan Leghari by the KUWAIT TIMES in Kuwait on 20 September]

[Text] Kuwait, Sept 20: President Farooq Ahmed Khan Leghari reiterated on Tuesday that Pakistan did not possess a nuclear device but said it would not accept any nonproliferation measure that was discriminatory between Pakistan and India.

In an exclusive interview with the Kuwait Times, the President said Pakistan's nuclear programme was for peaceful purposes but it would not sign the Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) unless India did likewise. He recalled that when the treaty was adopted in the UN General Assembly in 1968, Pakistan had voted for it. "Pakistan has adopted a principled position that it will accept any non-proliferation measure that is equitable and non-discriminatory between Pakistan and India. Therefore, if India signs the NPT, Pakistan will do so simultaneously," he explained.

Commenting on the claim of Pakistan opposition leader Nawaz Sharif that Pakistan possessed an atom bomb, the President said the reported statement was not true. "Pakistan does not possess nuclear devices nor does it intend to produce them. This position was categorically asserted on numerous occasions by Mr Nawaz Sharif himself when he was prime minister. His digression from his own solemn words is, therefore, nothing but political posturing meant to embarrass the government," the President said.

Mr Leghari, who arrived in Kuwait on Monday on a three-day official visit to Kuwait, said Pakistan's nuclear policy was consistent and unwavering and added: "We are committed to developing our nuclear programme for peaceful applications. Despite possessing some technical capability, Pakistan has taken a political decision not to produce nuclear weapons."

In a wide-ranging interview with the Kuwaiti English daily, President Leghari described the situation in Kashmir, Bosnia, Palestine and Afghanistan as challenges to the Islamic Ummah. He expressed his satisfaction over the outcome of the Islamic Foreign Ministers' Conference held in Islamabad earlier this month. Despite the short notice, he said, 48 member-states had attended the conference.

IFMC [Islamic Foreign Minister Committee] SESSION: The President said the extraordinary session of the IFMC was necessary to develop a common stand of the Organisation of Islamic Conference (OIC) countries on major issues facing the Muslim world before they came up for consideration at international forums. The issues specifically discussed were Palestine, Bosnia, Kashmir, Afghanistan, the Armenian aggression against Azerbaijan and sanctions against Libya.

He said specific action-oriented resolutions were adopted at the session on Kashmir that called on the OIC member-states to coordinate their positions and take a joint action at the UN General Assembly and the Commission on Human Rights to promote respect for the fundamental rights of Kashmiris. They had also decided to establish a contract group to keep the focus of international attention on the issue and called for a solution of the dispute based on Security Council resolutions.

President Leghari ruled out the so-called "third option"—to create an independent Kashmir—and said it had failed to win support of even the All Parties Hurriyat Conference, an alliance of all major Kashmiri political parties and Mujahideen groups. On the other hand, the conference had insisted upon the Kashmiris' right to self-determination, as stipulated in the UN resolutions, he added.

Afghanistan: On Afghanistan, Mr Leghari said that Pakistan's policy towards Kabul underlined its commitment to promote the process of reconciliation with the broader objective of establishing peace and stability so that the institutions of Afghanistan could be revived and the international community, committed to helping for the rehabilitation and reconstruction of the war-torn country, could participate in this gigantic task.

In reply to a question on the effects of Afghan war on Pakistan's relations with Central Asian countries, the President said instability in Afghanistan had impeded

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Pakistan's strategic access to Central Asia. Due to this, he observed, it had not been possible to have transit trade and enhance commercial linkages. However, Pakistan, China, Kyrgystan and Kazakhstan had agreed in principle to establish a transit trade route to Karachi through the Karakoram Highway. Additionally, interaction was also taking place between Pakistan and Central Asia through commercial and chartered flights, he added.

Israel: On Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto's abortive visit to Gaza Strip, the President said she wished to visit to Palestinian self-rule area to express solidarity with the people, but Israel had created an unnecessary obstacle. Pakistan could not seek clearance for the visit from Israel since it did not recognise the sovereignty of the Jewish state over Gaza or any other territory of Palestine, he added.

The President said there had been no change in Pakistan's policy towards Israel and the visit was not planned to devise recognition of the Jewish state. "We remain committed to the just struggle of the Palestinian people for their right to self-determination and for the creation of a Palestinian state in the occupied territories, as called for in the resolutions of the United Nations," he said.

Gulf: On the Gulf region, Mr Leghari said Pakistan's stance remained unchanged and was consistent with its principle of respect for the sovereignty and territorial integrity of all states, upheld especially in the case of Kuwait.

He said the recent flight of Pakistan International Airlines to Iraq was undertaken to help alleviate sufferings of the pilgrims who were forced to travel to Iraq by road.

The President explained that Asif Ali Zardari visited Baghdad in February as a special envoy of the Prime Minister to secure the release of Pakistani nationals, imprisoned for illegal entry into Iraq. "During his meetings with the Iraqi leaders, Mr Zardari had made it clear that the sovereignty of all states in the region, particularly that of Kuwait, must be respected, he said and added that Mr Zardari had also discussed the question of Kuwaiti prisoners.

Commenting on Iraqi foreign minister's recent tour of Islamabad, Mr Leghari said that as a member of the Security Council, Pakistan had an obligation to listen to a party that had a dispute pending before the Council. "The Iraqi foreign minister was told that Pakistan followed an objective and constructive approach at the Security Council so that the sufferings of Iraqi people may not be prolonged unnecessarily," he concluded.

Sharif Says Prime Minister 'An Economic Risk'

BK2109091994 Islamabad THE NEWS in English 21 Sep 94 p 1

[Text] Lahore—Opposition leader Mian Nawaz Sharif has called Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto not only a security risk for the country but also an 'economic risk' and demanded her immediate resignation.

Addressing a press conference at his residence after returning from a dramatic tour of the city, Mian Nawaz said the 'unprecedented' success of the strike from Karachi to Khyber was the people's verdict against the government's anti-state, anti-poor and fascist policies. "The entire nation was totally united against the government and wants its ouster immediately," he added, saying the Prime Minister was no longer merely a security risk for the country but was now also an 'economic risk'.

Mian Nawaz said though the government may choose to close its eyes as it did on the occasion of the 'Karwan-e-Nijat', the success of the strike cannot be denied. "It is once again a proof of the people's no-confidence in the government after our public contact campaign and the Karwan-e-Nijat," he added. Mian Nawaz paid tributes to his workers and legislators 'who were not afraid of facing bullets and the torture of the police'. He also appreciated the traders for playing 'their national role' and proved they want an end to PPP [Pakistan People's Party] rule.

He condemned the beating up of Javed Hashmi MNA [Member of National Assembly], Ubaidullah Sheikh MPA, Wajid Humanyun MPA, Inamuliah Niazi MPA, the bullet injuries received by party worker Farrukh Melmood Shah and the firing on the Sh [Sheikh] Rasheed MNA's Lal Havell on Rawalpindi, incidents of violence in districts and the arrests of Nadir Parvez, Amjad Yasin MNA, Tehmina Daullana MNA and Nasim Wali Khan.

Ubaldullah Sheikh and Wajid Humanyun were made to show their bullet wounds while other workers were made to show their lashed backs.

"Never has any government reacted to a strike in this manner," Mian Nawaz noted, adding that "this government of looters and lotas [defectors] wants anarchy and chaos throughout the country". Mian Nawaz said the opposition's future strategy and its next move would be decided in a meeting of the joint action committee and the supreme council on Wednesday.

Official Signs Nuclear Safety Convention in Vienna

BK2109093594 Lahore JANG in Urdu 21 Sep 94 pp 2, 7

[Text] Islamabad—Pakistan has signed the convention on nuclear safety. Dr. Ashfaq Ahmed, the chairman of the Pakistan Atomic Energy Commission [PAEC], signed the convention on behalf of Pakistan in Vienna. He is currently in Vienna to lead the Pakistani delegation to the 38th conference of the International Atomic Energy Agency [IAEA]. According to a message from Vienna received by the PAEC in Islamabad, the conference is being attended by delegates from 84 countries

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and four international organizations, including a five-member delegation from Pakistan. The draft of the convention on nuclear safety was finalized at the IAEA (?diplomatic) conference held in June last year. The convention is aimed at ensuring nuclear safety measures at nuclear installations through international cooperation as well as through steps taken at national level. Pakistan has endorsed the convention, recognizing its need and significance.

Addressing the general conference of the IAEA in Vienna, PAEC Chairman Dr. Ashfaq Ahmed said the convention on nuclear safety will go a long way in promoting technical cooperation at international level as well as in ensuring the implementation of the nuclear safety measures.

Referring to the international disputes, Dr. Ashfaq Ahmed said the international community should try to resolve these disputes because they immensely affect the efforts for nuclear nonproliferation and arms control. He said Pakistan still remains firm on its proposal to declare South Asia a nuclear-weapon-free zone and welcomes the ongoing negotiations on a Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty [CTBT]. He said the extension of the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty or the CTBT will not solve the problems of nuclear proliferation. Region-specific steps should be taken to achieve this objective, he added.

Dr. Ashfaq Ahmed said the recent reports about plutonium seizures have nothing to do with the nuclear nonproliferation, but, regrettably, the incidents, laced with groundless allegations, have been sensationalized. Activities of this nature may seriously jeopardize the atmosphere for international cooperation in the peaceful uses of nuclear energy. The Pakistan Atomic Energy Commission chairman said the developing countries need small and medium-sized nuclear reactors and the IAEA should intensify its efforts in this regard. Dr. Ashfaq Ahmed apprised the conference participants of Pakistan's efforts for developing nuclear energy.

Editorial on U.S. Investment To Help Energy Sector

BK2109084394 Islamabad THE NATION in English 21 Sep 94 p 6

[Editorial: "U.S. Energy Secretary's Visit"]

[Text] US Energy Secretary Hazel O'Leary arrives on a five day visit to Pakistan today. She is heading a high powered 70 member delegation of possible American investors in Pakistan's deficient energy sector. This visit is being seen as significant in two respects. First that this could be the first step taken by the US administration to try to work around the Pressler Amendment issue; and second that the visit of the Energy Secretary is reflective of the way the Americans view Ms Bhutto's energy policy. Thus it is expected that the delegation members representing energy and finance companies in the US would sign their own individual commercial deals with the Government of Pakistan, while Ms O'Leary is likely to sign a Memorandum of Understanding with the Pakistani government on technical cooperation in the fields of energy and environment. Already the Minister for Water and Power Ghulam Mustafa Khar has optimistically announced that 'we expect an investment of three billion dollars.' While one can be hopeful that such an amount would be the minimum amount of American investment in our deficient energy sector, yet only time will reveal the truth of this assertion.

Pakistan currently has a supply shortage of 25 per cent in the power sector. Frequent load shedding cost WAPDA [Water and Power Development Authority] around 950 million dollars last year alone. To try to meet the shortage WAPDA would have had to borrow huge amounts of money at high rates of interest thus making it a foregone conclusion that power rates would have been further upgraded, to the dismay of its consumers. Ms Bhutto's innovative policy has made it possible for the private sector, both domestic as well as international, to enter the generation field and thereby to sell the product to WAPDA for distribution. At the same time Ms Bhutto's government has promised to buy each thermal generated electric unit at 6.5 cents for the first ten years. The actual per unit cost of thermal power, it is agreed, is around 4 cents. On top of this the government has agreed to provide a premium of 0.25 cents per kilowatt to any project of more than 100 megawatt capacity commissioned before the end of 1997. Thus it is no wonder that foreign companies are interested in investing in our energy sector and fast. It is also believed that electricity rates would go up though whether they would go up higher in this instance than if WAPDA had tried to make good the supply gap on its own is difficult to say. There is even speculation that had WAPDA been given the go- ahead to start construction of Kalabagh Dam, rates could have been kept low. But all these are academic questions now. The fact is that there is tremendous response from the Americans about investing in our energy sector and we must seize the opportunity to try to meet the energy shortfall which has probably cost the country billions of dollars worth of loss up to now.

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